



**NAA: A1838, 163/11/87**

**Series number:** A1838

**Control symbol:** 163/11/87

**Barcode:** 586018

**Number of pages:** 84

**Title:** Egypt Relations with China

Copies of this record are provided for research or study purposes. Before making use of the material for other purposes (for example publication) please refer to information on copyright obligations and citing archival records available on our website at [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au).

FILE No. 163/11/87

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

CENTRAL SECTION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

**SECRET.**

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| <i>Egypt</i>                | SUBJECT. |
| <b>CLOSED</b>               |          |
| <i>Relations with China</i> |          |

**D.83**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| PREVIOUS FILE : |                 |
| NEXT FILE :     | <i>21411/87</i> |

| RELATED PAPERS. |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| FILE No.        | SUBJECT.      |
|                 | <b>CLOSED</b> |

4857/56,

By Authority: A. J. ARTHUR, C'wealth Govt. Printer, Canberra.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper The Times File No. 163/11/87  
Published at London Date 3-1-58

M

~~TOP SECRET~~  
**CHINA BUYS EGYPTIAN COTTON**

HONGKONG, Jan. 2.—Egypt is to supply Communist China with cotton, cotton yarn, textiles, and rice under a £13m. trade agreement signed between the two countries. Mustafa Khalifa, the Egyptian Under-Secretary of Commerce, said here to-day on his arrival from Peking. Mustafa Khalifa, leader of an Egyptian trade mission which has spent a month in Peking, said that in return Egypt would receive soya beans, meat, oils, iron, timber, tobacco, tea, vehicles, machinery, and steel products.—  
*Reuters.*

P/A. 5/5  
MEO.

COMMONWEALTH



OF AUSTRALIA

1. Middle East  
2. East Asia

TELEGRAMS & CABLES:  
"AUSTRADE"  
HONGKONG

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TRADE COMMISSION  
HONG KONG  
TELEPHONE: 28062

WING ON LIFE BUILDING  
22 DES VOEUX RD. CENTRAL  
P. O. BOX 820

File 111/3/3

23rd December, 1957.

Memorandum No. 717

163/11/87

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA.

Communist China - Trade Agreement with Egypt.

On December 21st a Protocol to the Sino-Egyptian Trade Agreement was signed in Peking by Lei Jen-min, Vice Minister for Foreign Trade and Mostafa Khalifa, Assistant Under-Secretary of State of the Egyptian Ministry of Commerce. The protocol provides for trade in the third year of the agreement totalling £stg.13 million.

2. A communique issued on the trade talks expressed unanimous satisfaction at the implementation of the protocol for the second agreement year and confidence that Sino-Egyptian trade relations and friendly co-operation would be continuously consolidated and strengthened. The Egyptian Trade Delegation was also said to have made "extensive contacts with various Chinese trading corporations" and to have concluded some transactions with them.

R.N.B.  
(R.N. Birch)  
First Secretary.

File 163/11/87

Deng. on 766/3/66  
Cables to Trade  
EPIC  
D.L.

TELEGRAMS & CABLES:  
"AUSTRADE"  
HONGKONG

COMMONWEALTH



OF AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICE HONGKONG

P. O. BOX 820  
TELEPHONE: 28052

WING ON LIFE BUILDING  
22 DES VOREUX RD. CENTRAL  
HONGKONG

2nd August, 1957.

163/1/87.

Middle East Section

To retain

File 722

Memorandum No. 393

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

CHINA - RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

Egypt's Army Day, the opening of the First National Assembly, and People's Day have inspired comment by Chinese officials and the press on Egypt's "struggle against imperialism".

2. On July 22nd, the Chinese Minister of National Defence, Marshal Peng Teh-huai, sent greetings to the Egyptian Minister of War, wishing the armed services success in defending the independence and freedom of Egypt and hoping for greater friendship between the armed forces of Egypt and China.

3. At a reception in honour of People's Day, on July 26th, Chou En-lai declared that U.S. imperialists were slyly plotting to supplant Britain and France in their imperialist positions and were busily carrying out acts of aggression in the Middle East. China was convinced, however, that Egypt would be able to unite the peoples of the Arab States, overcome all difficulties and defeat the plots of the imperialists. "The Egyptian people", he said, "can rest assured that the Chinese people, like all other peace-loving countries and peoples, will, as in the past, resolutely support their first struggle".

4. The Chinese press has praised Egypt's "glorious tradition of anti-feudalism and anti-colonialism" and Kwang-ming Jih Pao has asserted that the Chinese people "treasure their friendship with the Egyptian people which they have built up in their common struggle against colonialism and for national independence. May this friendship be consolidated even further".

5. The Chinese press and news agencies have devoted considerable space to Egyptian and Middle East affairs generally, including charges of American complicity in the Neguib plot. Egyptian editorial opinion on the Oman situation has been repeated at length. On July 27th, Reuters quoted the Cairo spokesman for the Imam of Oman, Sheikh El Harithy, as claiming he had received an offer of assistance for Oman from the Chinese Communists; Chinese newspapers did not carry the story but referred on July 28th to the Sheikh's denial of rumours that Omani nationalists received arms from foreign sources and his assertion that "the nationalists depend on themselves and no others." The Reuters report of Chinese assistance has been neither confirmed nor denied in Peking.

R. N. Birch  
(R. N. Birch)  
First Secretary.

W.H.  
RAO

TELEGRAMS & CABLES:  
"AUSTRADE"  
HONGKONG

COMMONWEALTH



OF AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICE HONGKONG

P. O. Box 820  
TELEPHONE: 28062

WING ON LIFE BUILDING  
22 DES VOEUX RD. CENTRAL  
HONGKONG

16th April, 1957.

File 722.

Memorandum No. 192.

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

PRESIDENT NASSER'S VISIT TO CHINA.

According to a brief news item from Peking, the Egyptian President 'may visit China this summer' and the Egyptian Embassy was in the course of being prepared for his arrival. No other details of the visit are yet available.

*(W.P.J. Handmer)*  
Third Secretary.

*Date 163/11/87.*

*↓  
Middle East Section  
for your per  
—cc*

Government of China  
of the Sino-Egyptian

163/11/11

A

This morning a protocol on the exchange of the instruments of ratification was signed by Chang Han-fu, Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Hassan Ragab, Egyptian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of China, on behalf of their governments.

File 722

1st October, 1956

Memorandum No 471

The Secretary, Director of the Chinese Cultural Delegation which visited Australia, Director of the Department of Western Asia and Africa, Department of External Affairs, and Chen Chung-ching, Counsellor for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

SINO-EGYPTIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT

In memorandum No 259 of the 3rd May, 1956 I reported that a Sino-Egyptian Agreement on Cultural Cooperation had apparently been signed on the 15th April although at that time no text was to hand. The latter has now become available and was published on the 25th September following the exchange of instruments of ratification earlier that day by representatives of China and Egypt.

2. Copies of the Hsinhua News Agency text of the agreement together with a brief covering announcement are enclosed.

ANNEX A China and Egypt Exchange Instruments of Ratification - Peking, September 25  
B Sino-Egyptian Cultural Agreement - Peking, Sept 25

MIDDLE EAST SECTION

For your file - original  
of the enclosures to the  
country. is on 494/2a

*W.P.J. Sandmer*  
(W.P.J. Sandmer)  
Third Secretary

RP 8/-  
The two contracting parties shall encourage and support contacts between educational institutions and departments of education and other educational organisations in both countries.

The two contracting parties shall encourage and support contacts between scientific and technical organisations in both countries.

The two contracting parties shall encourage and support contacts between workers and students in both countries.

## Article Three.

The two contracting parties shall send cultural delegations and delegations to visit and to give performances in the other party's country.

The two contracting parties shall encourage and support contacts and exchanges between scientific and artistic organisations officially recognised by both parties such as the national libraries, scientific, artistic and historical museums.

- 4 -

CHINA AND EGYPT EXCHANGE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION

PEKING, Sept. 25:- The governments of China and Egypt exchanged instruments of ratification of the Sino-Egyptian Agreement on Cultural Cooperation here today.

At a ceremony this morning a protocol on the exchange of the instruments of ratification was signed by Chang Han-fu, Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Hassan Ragab, Egyptian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of China, on behalf of their governments.

Chinese officials present at the ceremony were Shen Yen-ping, Minister of Culture, and Hsia Yen, Vice-Minister of Culture; Liu Tzu-tsai, Vice-Minister of Higher Education; Burhan, leader, and Yusf Ma Yu-huai, deputy leader, of the Chinese Cultural Delegation which visited Egypt this year; Ko Hua, Director of the Department of Western Asian and African Affairs of the Foreign Ministry; Yen Pao-hang, Director of the Treaties Committee of the Foreign Ministry; and Chen Chung-ching, Acting Director of the Bureau for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

Egyptian officials present at the ceremony were Medhat El-Farr, Commercial Representative, and Ahmed Mantawy, Deputy Commercial Representative, of the Republic of Egypt in China.

The Sino-Egyptian Agreement on Cultural Cooperation was signed in Cairo on April 15, 1956. It was ratified by Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the People's Republic of China on June 14, 1956 and by Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of the Republic of Egypt on May 24, 1956. (HSINHUA)

- 3 -

B

Sept. 26, 1956

SINO-EGYPTIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT

PEKING, Sept. 25:- The text was released here today of the Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the governments of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Egypt, concluded in April. It reads:

The Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Egypt (hereafter referred to as the two contracting parties), for the thorough implementation of the spirit of the recommendations on cultural cooperation of the 1955 Afro-Asian Conference, and for the development of cultural relations and cooperation in the field of culture between the two countries, henceforth promoting mutual understanding, friendly unity and prosperity of the cultural life of the peoples of the two countries, have signed the following agreement on the basis of the summary records of talks on cultural cooperation signed by the representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the representative of the Government of the Republic of Egypt on May 31, 1955.

Article One.

The two contracting parties shall encourage contacts between corresponding scientific institutes of the two countries and shall encourage scientists, medical and health workers to visit and lecture in the other party's country.

Article Two.

The two contracting parties shall mutually invite language teachers of the one party to teach in the higher institutions of the other party's country.

The two contracting parties shall mutually exchange students.

The two contracting parties shall recognize the diplomas and degrees of schools and institutions of equivalent status of both parties.

The two contracting parties shall encourage the exchange of their professors and scientists.

The two contracting parties shall exchange delegations of educational workers and students for friendly visits.

Article Three.

The two contracting parties shall send cultural delegations and art delegations to visit and to give performances in the other party's country.

The two contracting parties shall encourage and support contacts and exchanges between scientific and artistic organisations officially recognized by both parties such as the national libraries, scientific, artistic and historical museums.

(cont'd)

Sept. 26, 1956

The two contracting parties shall mutually hold all kinds of pictures and art exhibitions in the other party's country. Phonographic records and reproductions of works of art shall also be exchanged.

Article Four.

The two contracting parties shall, under mutual approval, afford facilities to each other for the holding of film shows, and the exchange of films.

Article Five.

The two contracting parties shall organize mutual visits and friendly matches between sports organisations and individual sportsmen of the two countries.

Article Six.

The two contracting parties shall, under mutual approval afford facilities for the translation and publication of each other's renowned works of science, culture and art.

Article Seven.

The two contracting parties shall, under mutual approval, exchange books, magazines and other publications on science, culture and art, and shall also exchange apparatus as well as specimens of educational and cultural value.

Article Eight.

The two contracting parties shall promote cooperation in the fields of journalism and broadcasting, and shall send delegations of visiting journalists to the other party's country.

The two contracting parties shall send from among the staff of their state news agencies or government organs one permanent correspondent to be stationed in each other's country.

Article Nine.

For the purpose of carrying out this agreement the two contracting parties shall appoint in February every year delegates to hold meetings to discuss the implemental possibilities of both parties and fix the working plan of the following year.

Article Ten.

The financial obligations of each party concerning the implementation of the yearly working plan will be dealt with separately by the delegates referred to in Article Nine.

Article Eleven.

In order to facilitate the implementation of this agreement both parties shall nominate a cultural liaison officer who will be responsible for all contacts relating to cultural cooperation.

Article Twelve.

This agreement shall be ratified by both governments. It shall enter into force on the day of the exchange of the instruments of ratification in Peking. Any revision of this agreement shall be effective when signed by both governments.

Each party may terminate this agreement by giving the other party a six months' written notice of its intention to terminate it.

In faith thereof, the said parties have signed the present agreement, of which there shall be Arabic, Chinese and English versions, all three texts being equally authentic.

Done in duplicate in Cairo this 15th day of April, 1956.

(HSINHUA)

- 5 -

163/11/11, 1956

A

## EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

PEKING, Sept. 17:- Hassan Ragab, first Egyptian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to China, presented his credentials to Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Memorandum No 463

The Ambassador was accompanied by Medhat Si-Farr, Egyptian Commercial Representative, and Ahmed Martawy, Deputy Commercial Representative.

Department of External Affairs,

From CANBERRA, A.C.T. Among them were Chang Han-fu, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; Tu Hsien-ching, Chief of the Bureau of Ceremonies of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Xu Mu, Director of the western EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHINA.

Further to my memorandum No 454 of the 18th September, 1956 about the arrival in Peking of Egypt's first Ambassador to China, I am enclosing copies of two Hsinhua News Agency reports which refer to Mr Hassan Ragab's presentation of credentials (17th September) and to a banquet tendered him on the 19th September by Chou En-lai.

"You know In the speeches made on both occasions references to the Suez Canal question were prominent and both Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai reiterated the Chinese Government's determination to do "their utmost to support the heroic struggle of the Egyptian people .....". To your Excellency the great appreciation of Egypt to the noble stand of China and her firm support for Egypt ANNEX A Egyptian Ambassador Presents Credentials - Peking, Canal.

September 17

"The history of Premier Chou En-lai Welcomes Egyptian Ambassador - oldest in the world. Peking, September 19

"Since the dawn of history China the oldest country in Asia and Egypt the oldest in Africa carried the torch of civilisation which lit their countries very brightly at a moment when the remainder of the world was still in the obscurity. From the focus of this torch modern civilisation inspired all its rules and traditions.

Middle East Sector

It was regretful that imperialists (W.P.J. Handmer), this civilization contained of arts and Third Secretary exploit the people of China and Egypt by acquiring special privileges in their territories. [Any is a sign] These privileges the major part of the fruit of their people's efforts was harvested to serve imperialism. This was achieved by spreading seeds of hatred and dissension amongst the different classes - ~~and~~ <sup>in</sup> both countries.

"The Chinese people who was not happy about this state of affairs rose under the able guidance of your Excellency to shed off the yoke of imperialism in all its shapes and forms and was thus able to reconstitute his rights and reestablish his sovereignty.

"It was a happy coincidence that the Egyptian people should rise under its trustworthy Leader Gamal Abdel Nasser to rid himself of the remaining fetters of colonialism, inspiring its example from the struggle of the Chinese people.

"East has woken up from its long slumber. Very soon we will witness that the torch of civilisation has come back to the hands of those who were the first to light it.

"China and Egypt can realise a great deal in this respect by unifying their efforts and establishing close cooperation between their peoples.

(cont'd)

- 9 -

A

Sept. 18, 1956

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

PEKING, Sept. 17:- Hassan Ragab, first Egyptian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to China, today presented his credentials to Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

The Ambassador was accompanied by Medhat El-Farr, Egyptian Commercial Representative, and Ahmed Mantawy, Deputy Commercial Representative.

Present at the ceremony were Chang Han-fu, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; Yu Hsin-ching, Chief of the Bureau of Ceremonies of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Ko Hua, Director of the West Asian and African Affairs Department, and Wang Cho-ju, Director of the Protocol Department, of the Foreign Ministry.

On presenting the credentials, Ambassador Ragab made a speech. Chairman Mao Tse-tung made a reply. The Ambassador also presented gifts to Chairman Mao Tse-tung on behalf of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Following is the text of Ambassador Ragab's speech:

"Your Excellency Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

"On the occasion of presenting my credentials I am charged to convey to the great people of China best greetings from the struggling people of Egypt. I would like to express to your Excellency the great appreciation of Egypt to the noble stand of China and her firm support for Egypt in restoring her full rights and sovereignty over the Suez Canal.

"The historical bonds which united our two nations are considered the oldest in the world.

"Since the dawn of history China the oldest country in Asia and Egypt the oldest in Africa carried the torch of civilisation which lit their countries very brightly at a moment when the remainder of the world was still in the obscurity. From the focus of this torch modern civilisation inspired all its rules and traditions.

"It was regretful that imperialism had mobilised this civilisation and what it contained of arts and science to exploit the peoples of China and Egypt by acquiring special privileges in their territories. According to these privileges the major part of the fruit of their people's efforts was harnessed to serve imperialism. This was achieved by spreading seeds of hatred and disunity amongst the different classes and clans in both countries.

"The Chinese people who was not happy about this state of affairs rose under the able guidance of your Excellency to shed off the yoke of imperialism in all its shapes and forms and was thus able to restore his rights and reestablish his sovereignty.

"It was a happy coincidence that the Egyptian people should rise under its trustworthy leader Gamal Abdel Nasser to rid himself of the remaining fetters of colonialism, inspiring its example from the struggle of the Chinese people.

"East has woken up from its long slumber. Very soon we will witness that the torch of civilisation has come back to the hands of those who were the first to light it.

"China and Egypt can realise a great deal in this respect by unifying their efforts and establishing close cooperation between their peoples.  
(cont'd)

Sept. 18, 1956

"The new Eastern civilisation thus achieved shall not be used to exploit under-developed nations but to the welfare of humanity at large and to maintain security and peace to a world badly needs them.

"It is my great privilege to arrive in China at this important phase of its history to witness from close quarters the progress achieved in attaining the targets set by your government aiming at a higher standard of living for the people.

"Undoubtedly, the experience learned in China will greatly help my country which pass through similar conditions as those prevailing in China at the present time.

"If your Excellency would allow me I would say a word about my humble person and that I consider my nomination as the first Egyptian Ambassador to great China, the highest honour bestowed upon myself. May I assure your Excellency that I shall try my best to bring further our both nations still closer, and to serve our common cause."

Chairman Mao Tse-tung's reply reads as follows:

"Mr. Ambassador:

"I receive with great pleasure the letter of credence by which your Excellency has been appointed the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Egypt to the People's Republic of China and I am grateful for your Excellency's friendly greetings to myself. I would like to take this opportunity to express, through you, Ambassador, the sincere respect which the Chinese people and I have for President Gamal Abdel Nasser. The government and people of China will do their utmost to support the heroic struggle of the Egyptian people in defending their sovereignty over the Suez Canal, and believe that the Egyptian people will certainly win their final victory in this struggle.

"Both China and Egypt have the most ancient civilisation in the world. As your Excellency has pointed out, the traditional friendship between our two peoples is one with a long history. The colonialists had once obstructed the development of the traditional relations between China and Egypt, but the Chinese and the Egyptian peoples who have won their own national independence, have again established new relations of friendship and cooperation. The Chinese people treasure these relations of friendship and cooperation between them and the Egyptian people and believe that these relations will be consolidated and developed day by day. The friendly cooperation between China and Egypt, two peace-loving countries of Asia and Africa, will undoubtedly contribute immensely to the maintenance and consolidation of peace in Asia, Africa and the rest of the world.

"Mr. Ambassador, I warmly welcome your Excellency's assumption of the post of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Egypt to the People's Republic of China. In your work of promoting the friendly cooperation between China and Egypt, you will be given full assistance by me and the government of the People's Republic of China.

"I wish prosperity to your country and well-being to your people, and wish His Excellency President Gamal Abdel Nasser good health!"  
(HSINHUA)

\* \* \*

- 10 -

B

PEKING, Sept. 19:- The government and people of China will do their utmost to support the heroic Egyptian people in defending their sovereignty over the Suez Canal. This statement was made by Premier and Foreign Minister Chou En-lai at a banquet he gave this evening in honour of the Egyptian Ambassador, General Hassan Ragab, and Mrs. Ragab.

Chou En-lai said, "The Egyptian people are standing at the forefront of the struggle against colonialism. We regard your victory in this struggle as our victory."

Premier Chou En-lai then proposed a toast to the victory of the Egyptian people, who under the brilliant leadership of President Nasser, are struggling for independence, sovereignty and dignity.

In reply, Ambassador Ragab said, "We are very grateful that the Chinese Government and people are standing by Egypt."

He added that the Egyptian people stood firmly before the imperialists "because we have the firm support of the Chinese people and the people of the world."

"We are very happy that the Chinese people have already got rid of the yoke of imperialism. The Egyptian people, under the leadership of President Nasser, are following the same path as China to get rid of colonialist and imperialist oppression. The Egyptian people are inspired and encouraged by the great example of the Chinese people."

Ambassador Ragab added, "If we succeed in the struggle over the Suez Canal, the doom of imperialism will be near, and we are convinced that we shall win."

Present at the banquet were the Egyptian Commercial Representative Madhat El-Farr and Mrs. El-Farr, the Deputy Commercial Representative Ahmed Mantawy, and Mrs. Mantawy.

Also attending were Marshal Ho Lung and Marshal Chen Yi, vice-premiers; Chang Po-chun, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Burhan, leader of the Chinese Haj Mission which visited Egypt recently; Fu Tso-yi, Vice-Chairman of the National Defence Council; Chang Wen-ting and Chang Han-fu, vice foreign ministers; high-ranking military officers, leading government officials and leading members of people's organisations.

(HSINHUA)

\*

\*

\*

- 1 -

163/11/11

File 701

18th September, 1956.

Memorandum No 454

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHINA

Further to my memorandum No 308 of the 4th June, 1956  
it was announced in Peking on the 15th September that the  
first Egyptian Ambassador to China, Mr Hassan Ragab, arrived  
in Peking earlier that day.

2. Ch'en Chia-k'ang, the Chinese Ambassador to Egypt took  
up his post rather earlier and in fact arrived in Cairo two  
months ago on the 19th July.

109  
(W.P.J. Handmer)  
Third Secretary

Middle East Section

- for your file  
- Orig. in our 494/20

— RR



163/11/11

June 17, 1956

## COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TRADE COMMISSIONER

P. O. BOX NO. 820

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:

"AUSTRADE"

TELEPHONE: 28062

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

P. &amp; O. BUILDING, CONNAUGHT ROAD

HONG KONG

File No 722

-4 JUL 1956

25th June, 1956.

Memo No 347

CANCELLERY

Free Egypt as a guest of honour at the Chinese National Day Celebrations in Peking, Vice-Minister of Culture to the Egyptian delegation.

The Secretary, Department of External Affairs, Chinese and CANTON. Professor Nasser was received there by Chinese and Egyptian officials. Both countries with a glorious past and a great future, having established diplomatic relations, the friendship between the two countries would be enhanced and would last.

SINO-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

Although there has as yet been no actual exchange of diplomatic representatives the Chinese Communists are taking pains to display their concern for all things Egyptian and the case in point is the celebration in Peking of the third anniversary of the Egyptian Republic. For Egypt, on this occasion, there were as representatives members of the Egyptian Cultural Delegation and Trade Office in Peking. For China, however, Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai were among the high ranking leaders present and no little interest has been occasioned thereby. It is of course not unusual for Mao Tse-tung to attend important functions but this particular example has received greater attention no doubt because of the current drive to influence Egypt and the Arab states. After all, the Egyptians present were not of great standing or seniority and the anniversary celebrations have fairly clearly been used by the Chinese.

As for Mao Tse-tung and his new prominence this seems to date back to about last October and has been marked by a considerable amount of publicity reporting his attendance at meetings and similar occasions. Prior to this Mao Tse-tung was by no means off the stage but from about 1951 there was rather less publicity and you will recall that during this period there was much speculation about Mao's health. This is certainly now in the past but how one is to satisfactorily explain what some have termed 'the re-emergence of Mao Tse-tung' is still unanswered although possibly the reason if known would prove interesting and perhaps important.

3. Enclosures to this memorandum are :

- ANNEX A Egyptian National Day Celebrations - Peking 16 June  
B Egyptian National Day Reception - Peking 18 June  
C People's Daily Welcomes Egyptian People's Victory -  
Feking 18 June  
D Chou En-lai Greets Nasser on Withdrawal of Foreign  
Troops - Peking 18 June

*W.P.J. Handmer*  
(W.P.J. Handmer)  
Third Secretary

GR

June 17, 1956

Annex A

EGYPTIAN NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATED

PEKING, June 16:- The third anniversary of the founding of the Egyptian Republic was celebrated this evening by Chinese educationists and cultural figures and the members of the Egyptian Cultural Delegation now visiting China.

"The independent and free China welcomes the independent and free Egypt as our great friend," said Chien Chun-jui, Vice-Minister of Culture to the Egyptian friends at the banquet.

The banquet was held in the Peking University campus. Professor Ibrahim Amin El Shawarby, host of the party, welcomed the more than 50 Chinese and foreign guests. He said that with China and Egypt, two countries with a glorious past and a great future, having established diplomatic relations, the friendship between the two countries would be enhanced and world peace benefited.

The guests included Sheikh Nur Mohammed Ta Pu-sheng; Niphon Paba, Bishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of Lebanon; Yang Hsiu-feng, Vice-Minister of Higher Education; Chien Chun-jui, Vice-Minister of Culture; Huang Hua, Director of the Department of Western European and African Affairs of the Foreign Ministry; Chen Chung-ching, Acting Director of the Bureau for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries; Chu Ko-chen, Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of China; Chu Tu-nan, President of the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries; Ma Yin-chu, President of Peking University, and professors of the university.

Professor Shawarby said in his address at the party that the National Day celebration of Egypt this year was connected with many matters of great significance. With the withdrawal of the last British soldier from Egypt three days ago, Egypt had become a completely independent country. It would put into effect the new constitution and elect a president.

He spoke with enthusiasm of the independent foreign policy now being pursued by the Republic of Egypt and its efforts to strengthen friendship with Asian and African nations in accordance with the resolutions of the Bandung Conference. He said that the Egyptian people jubilantly welcomed the decision of their government to recognise the People's Republic of China. This was because China was a symbol of liberty and a symbol of the defence of peace. He called on the guests to join him in a toast to the friendship between China and Egypt and to the glorious future of the two great nations.

Chien Chun-jui, Vice-Minister of Culture, said that Egypt's independence was a great victory for the world movement against colonialism and for the cause of peace. The establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Egypt would develop still further the friendly cooperation of the two countries in the fields of economy and culture.

Turning to Professor Shawarby, Mr. Medhat El Farr, Egypt's commercial representative, and other friends from Egypt, he proposed a toast to the well-being of the Egyptian people and to the inviolable friendship between China and Egypt.

Professor Shawarby presented an inventory of 30 cases of books in Arabic to Vice-Minister Chien Chun-jui. The books are a gift from the Egyptian Ministry of Education to the Peking University and the Institute of Islamic Theology of China. Chien Chun-jui thanked Professor Shawarby and said to him, "this is an expression of the very deep friendship of the Egyptian people for the Chinese people."

An Egyptian documentary film was shown after the banquet.  
(HSINHUA)

- 3 -

Annex B

EGYPTIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION

PEKING, June 18:- Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai today attended the reception given here by Medhat El Farr, head of the Egyptian Government Trade Office in China, in celebration of Egypt's Independence Day.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung had a long and cordial talk with Mr. Farr and went round the reception hall to shake hands and talk with the diplomatic representatives of various countries and their wives.

Mr. Farr said in a speech that he felt honoured by the presence of the distinguished guests "for the joint celebration in your great country of the holiday which is being celebrated throughout Egypt today."

He proposed a toast to the health of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and to the prosperity of the Chinese people.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung emptied his cup when Mr. Farr and his wife, with cups in hand, went up to him.

Mr. Farr also proposed a toast to Premier Chou En-lai, to the health of the foreign diplomatic representatives and to all other guests present.

Premier Chou En-lai said: "Today is the National Day of the Republic of Egypt and also the day for celebrating the final withdrawal of foreign troops from Egyptian territory. Permit me to offer warm greetings to the government and people of Egypt on behalf of the government and people of China."

The Premier proposed a toast to the victory of Egypt in its struggle to maintain national independence, to the growing friendship between the peoples of China and Egypt and the friendly relations between the two countries, to the great unity among the peoples of Asia and Africa, to world peace, to the health of Premier Nasser and the prosperity of the people of Egypt.

Premier Chou En-lai also proposed a toast to the health of Mr. Farr and his wife. He conversed with diplomatic representatives.

Among the 600 guests at the first reception here for the celebration of the Egyptian National Day were Peng Chen, Li Wei-han and Chen Shu-tung, vice-chairmen of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Peng Teh-huai, Chen Yi and Ulanfu, vice-premiers; Tung Pi-wu, President of the Supreme People's Court; Chang Wen-tien, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and leading officials of the various government departments.

They walked round the reception hall and conversed cordially with Mr. and Mrs. Farr and other guests. (HSINHUA)

\*

\*

\*

- 2 -

PEKING June 19 (Xinhua) — The People's Daily newspaper of China has published an editorial welcoming the withdrawal of British troops from the Suez Canal Zone.

Annex C

PEOPLE'S DAILY WELCOMES EGYPTIAN PEOPLE'S VICTORY June 19, 1956

PEKING, June 18:- The withdrawal of British troops from the Suez Canal Zone is an event of historic significance, said the People's Daily in an editorial today.

Welcoming this victory of the Egyptian people's long struggle for independence and freedom, the paper said: "The Suez Canal in the past was an important link in the colonial system of the Western powers. Now the British forces have been compelled to withdraw from the canal zone. This shows the further disintegration of the imperialist colonial system."

The editorial pointed out that the fight against colonialism was sweeping Africa, Asia and other places. The colonial system was near its doom. It noted that in the past few years the US colonialists had repeatedly attempted to replace Britain in the Suez Canal Zone.

But this intrigue had been defeated. "The Egyptian action in driving all foreign troops out of the Suez Canal Zone is in the interests of the peace and security of Egypt and the Near and Middle East," the editorial said.

"Having shaken off colonial rule and foreign occupation, the Egyptian people have taken the road of national renascence," it continued.

"The Egyptian people are engaged in political, economic and cultural construction to consolidate and develop their independent state. At the same time, because the Egyptian Government is firmly carrying out a peaceful and independent policy, its diplomatic relations are developing and its role in international affairs is growing stronger. The emergence of a new Egypt has a great influence on the whole situation in the Arab East and the Near and Middle East," the editorial said.

Concluding, the People's Daily expressed the belief that by consolidating their independence and freedom the Egyptian people would achieve greater victories in the future.

(HSINHUA)

\* \* \*

CHOU EN-LAI GREETS NASSER ON WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS

PEKING, June 18:- Premier Chou En-lai sent a message on June 16  
to Egyptian Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser congratulating him on the final  
withdrawal of foreign troops from the Egyptian territory. (cont'd)

*Annex D*

- 1 -

On the occasion of the final and complete withdrawal of foreign  
troops from the territory of the Republic of Egypt, on behalf of the  
Government of the Chinese People's Republic and the Chinese people, I  
extend warm congratulations to the Government of the Egyptian Republic,  
the Egyptian people and Your Excellency and wish the Egyptian people  
greater achievements in their national construction. (HSINHUA)

\* \* \*

June 19, 1956

The message reads:

On the occasion of the final and complete withdrawal of foreign troops from the territory of the Republic of Egypt, on behalf of the Government of the Chinese People's Republic and the Chinese people, I extend warm congratulations to the Government of the Egyptian Republic, the Egyptian people and Your Excellency and wish the Egyptian people greater achievements in their national construction. (HSINHUA)

\* \* \*

Australian High Commission,  
100 Sparks Street,  
OTTAWA 4, CANADA

No. E.A. 530 /56

JL/gj

163/11/11.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Ref. 111/7/1

1st June, 1956.

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
Canberra, A.C.T.

Developments in the Middle East

In paragraph 2 of our memorandum No. 389 of 20th April, we reported that the Canadian Government had not yet reached any decision on the possible export of Sabre jet fighters to Israel.

2. It has recently been speculated in the Canadian press that current United Nations interest and activity in the Middle East area might result in a Canadian decision being hastened. However, we have been advised by the Middle East desk officer in the Department of External Affairs that this is far from being the case and that a decision can still not be expected for some little time - certainly not before United Nations deliberations have been completed.

3. We also took the opportunity to enquire about Canadian views on Egypt's recent recognition of the Communist regime in China. We were informed that the Canadians are in general agreement with the view expressed by the foreign office that the Egyptian action was conceived partly in order to keep Egypt "on side" with the Bandung powers, and partly as a gesture of impatience with, perhaps even defiance toward, the western powers. The Canadians do not believe that the move had any direct connection with Egypt's recent purchases of arms from Communist bloc countries.

4. A copy of this memorandum is being sent to the Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York.

Middle East to retain. J. C. LAVETT  
Original on 229/10/56/1 First Secretary.

14/6  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

F

## EGYPT RECOGNITION OF CHINA

163/11/11

PEKING, May 17:- The Egyptian Council of Ministers held the meeting, on the evening of Wednesday, May 16, went officially announced the recognition by the Chinese Government of the People's Republic of China.

## COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JUN 1956

Li Yin-shi, the Commercial Representative of the People's Republic of China in Egypt, has been formally notified of this decision. He has been invited to attend the meeting of the Chinese Government's Political Consultative Committee on 25th May, 1956.

P. O. BOX NO. 820  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:  
"AUSTRADE"  
TELEPHONE: 28062

C/- AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TRADE COMMISSIONER  
P. O. BUILDING, CONNAUGHT ROAD  
HONG KONG.

File No 701

25th May, 1956.

Memo No 292

The Chinese Government hopes that China and Egypt will speedily establish diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic envoys.

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

## RECOGNITION OF CHINA BY EGYPT

On 16th May the Egyptian Government announced that it had decided to extend recognition to the People's Republic of China and that the Commercial Representative of China in Egypt and the Chinese Government had been notified accordingly.

2. The following day the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Peking issued a statement welcoming the Egyptian decision which it implied stemmed from contacts made at Bandung. Chou En-lai too, on 18th May, published a letter sent that day to the Egyptian Prime Minister acknowledging "with cordial welcome ... this friendly step ..." All this has now been followed by the Peking radio announcement on 24th May that Colonel Nasser has accepted an invitation to visit China and that the Egyptian Government will also send a military delegation to China.

3. Locally the development has caused little surprise though some unhappiness and it is believed in some American circles that Syrian recognition may not be long delayed.

4. Enclosures to this memorandum are :

- ANNEX A Egypt Recognises China - Peking 17 May (16 May)
- B China Welcomes Egypt's Announcement - Peking 17 May
- C Yeh Chi-chuang on Sino-Egyptian Economic Relations - Peking 17 May
- D Egypt Withdraws Recognition from Chiang Kai-shek Clique - Peking 18 May (16 May)
- E Chou En-lai Welcomes Egypt's Recognition of China - Peking 18 May
- F People's Daily Welcomes Egypt's Decision - Peking 19 May
- G Nasser to Visit China - South China Morning Post 25 May
- H Executive Plan for Sino-Egyptian Cultural Agreement - 21 May
- I Sino-Egyptian Trade Greatly Developed - Peking 23 May

Annexes H and I, it will be noted, refer respectively to an executive plan (21 May 1956) for 1956-57 concluded under the Sino-Egyptian Cultural Cooperation Agreement and to the progress in trade relations.

*W.P.J. Handmer*  
(W.P.J. Handmer)  
Third Secretary

*GP*

EGYPT RECOGNISES CHINA

PEKING, May 17:- The Egyptian Council of Ministers has, at the end of the meeting, on the evening of Wednesday, May 16, 1956, officially announced the recognition by the Egyptian Government of the People's Republic of China.

Annex A

Li Yin-chi, the Commercial Representative of China in Egypt has been formally notified of this decision by the Egyptian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mohammed Abou Nosseir and the Chief of the Egyptian Prime Minister's Political Chancellery Ali Sabri.

Meanwhile the Egyptian Commercial Representative in China El Farr also notified the Government of the People's Republic of China of this decision.

(HSINHUA)

respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. \* The Chinese Government hopes that China and Egypt will speedily establish diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic envoys.

(HSINHUA)

CHINA WELCOMES EGYPT'S ANNOUNCEMENT

PEKING, May 17:- Following is the statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Since the Asian-African Conference, and especially since the premiers of China and Egypt made contacts during that conference, the relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Egypt have been increasingly developing. On May 16, 1956, the Government of the Republic of Egypt officially announced its recognition of the People's Republic of China. The government and people of China warmly welcome this friendly gesture of the Egyptian Government. The People's Republic of China, on the very day when it was founded, announced its readiness to establish diplomatic relations with any foreign country which adheres to the principles of equality, mutual benefit and mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Chinese Government hopes that China and Egypt will speedily establish diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic envoys.

(HSINHUA)

Anex B

YEH CHI-CHUANG ON SINO-EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

PEKING, May 17:- The new friendly cooperation and economic and cultural relations which have been established between China and Egypt are beneficial to the consolidation of peace in the Asian-African area and the whole world, declared Yeh Chi-chuang, Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade, today.

He said that these friendly relations were the result of joint efforts made by the Chinese and Egyptian governments and people for the carrying through of the Bandung spirit and the implementation of the resolution on economic cooperation adopted at the Bandung Conference. These relations of cooperation corresponded to the interests of the people of the two countries.

(cont'd)

- 1 -

May 18, 1956

Yeh Chi-chuang made this statement in a broadcast speech over Radio Peking this evening. In March, he led a Chinese trade mission on a friendly visit to Egypt and stayed there for a month.

He said that in the talks held in Cairo between the Chinese Trade Mission and Mohammed Abou Nosseir, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Egypt, both parties expressed satisfaction over the implementation of the Sino-Egyptian trade agreement of August, 1955, and the protocol for the first year of the agreement. Both parties expressed full confidence in the bright future for the development of trade between the two countries.

Thanking the Egyptian Government and people for the warm reception they gave the Chinese Trade Mission, Yeh Chi-chuang said that he felt "Egypt has much in agricultural technique, culture, and art which we should do well to learn."

Yeh Chi-chuang also praised the Egyptian people for their remarkable achievements in building their own country. "Egypt has made rapid economic progress in the three years since her revolution," he stated. "With resolute efforts by the Egyptian Government and people, it is entirely possible for Egypt to build their own country into a rich and powerful state along the road of independence. We look forward to seeing, and sincerely wish greater achievements for our Egyptian friends." \*

(HSINHUA)

WITHDRAWS RECOGNITION FROM CHIANG KAI-SHEK CLIQUE

Annex D

PEKING, May 18:- In its meeting on the evening of May 16, 1956 Council of Ministers of the Republic of Egypt reached a decision to withdraw its recognition from the Chiang Kai-shek clique on Taiwan. At the same time, the Council of Ministers decided to recognize the People's Republic of China, together with the expressed wish of establishing diplomatic relations and exchanging diplomatic envoys. Mr. Mohamed Midhat El Farr, the Commercial Representative of the Republic of Egypt to China, communicated the abovementioned full decisions to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on May 18. (HSINHUA)

\* \* \*

of China to express cordial welcome for this friendly step in accordance with the common desire of our two countries

CHOU EN-LAI WELCOMES EGYPT'S RECOGNITION OF CHINA

*Annex E*

PEKING, May 18:- Premier Chou En-lai, in a letter to the Egyptian Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser today, welcomed the friendly step taken by the Egyptian Government of recognising the People's Republic of China. The full text of the letter reads:

I am glad to receive the message conveyed by Mr. Midhat El Farr, Commercial Representative of the Republic of Egypt, that the Egyptian Council of Ministers, at its meeting on May 16, 1956, officially announced Egypt's withdrawal of its recognition of the Taiwan government and at the same time announced its recognition of the People's Republic of China and expressed its willingness to establish diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic envoys with the People's Republic of China. I have the honour on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China to express cordial welcome for this friendly step taken by your government, and wish that the common desire of our two countries to formally establish diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic envoys may be realized speedily.

Since the Asian-African Conference, the friendship between our two peoples has been further developed and our two governments have already concluded treaties of friendly cooperation in the fields of culture and trade. I am convinced that a further development of the friendly relations between our two countries will be even more beneficial to their common cause of promoting friendly cooperation among Asian and African countries and safeguarding world peace.

I have the honour to send to Your Excellency my high respects.

(Signed) Chou En-lai  
Premier of the State Council  
of the People's Republic of  
China

(HSINHUA)

PEOPLE'S DAILY WELCOMES EGYPT'S DECISION

Annex F

PEKING, May 19:- Egypt's decision to recognise China was welcomed by a People's Daily editorial today. The paper said that this marked the increasing unity between China and the Arab states. Excerpts of the editorial follow:

This important development in Sino-Egyptian relations is in complete accordance with the desires and interests of both peoples.

Both China and Egypt suffered in the past from foreign enslavement. We are now rid of the chains of colonialism and have become independent. We desire to build up our own countries, to develop our economy and our culture. We cherish peace and want to be friendly and to cooperate with all peoples. The friendly relations between China and Egypt are therefore founded on a firm common basis.

China and Egypt attended the Asian-African Conference with hopes for peace. During this conference, the prime ministers of China and Egypt established friendly contact and greatly promoted mutual understanding between the two countries. A tremendous growth in friendly cooperation, cultural and trade exchange between our two countries followed. Undoubtedly in future, under even better conditions, the prospects for friendly cooperation between our two countries will be even brighter.

The significance of Sino-Egyptian friendship far passes their boundaries. It also marks the increasing unity between China and the Arab states and closer ties between Asia and Africa. This is the result of conscientious efforts by China and Egypt to carry out the resolutions of the Asian-African Conference. Sino-Egyptian friendship will also advance the Bandung spirit. We are confident that the progress made in the friendly relations between China and Egypt will have a good effect in the entire Asian and African area and contribute to peace.

No power on earth can obstruct the friendship and cooperation between China and Egypt. Similarly no power on earth can prevent the victory of the people of all countries in the cause of peace and friendship.

(HSINHUA)

\* \* \*

*Annex H*

May 22, 1956

EXECUTIVE PLAN FOR SINO-EGYPTIAN CULTURAL COOPERATION

ANNEX G

CAIRO, May 21:- An executive plan for 1956-1957 under the recently concluded Sino-Egyptian Cultural Cooperation Agreement was published in the South China Morning Post yesterday. The plan contained details of cultural and educational cooperation to be carried out by both countries in this period. (RSINJUA)

\* NASSER TO VISIT CHINA \*

PEKING POLICY TO CONSOLIDATE AFRO-ASIAN BLOC

In present various Chinese corporations are continuing to make many business transactions with trade departments of the Egyptian Government and members of Egyptian industry. Paris May 24  
It is expected that before August this year the first year of the trade agreement between China and Egypt will have been accomplished successfully.

Radio Peking announced tonight that the Egyptian Premier, Col Gamal Abdel Nasser, had accepted the Chinese Communist Premier, Mr Chou En-lai's invitation to visit China.

No date for the visit was mentioned. The acceptance was conveyed by the Egyptian commercial representative to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The invitation was extended by Mr Chou in a message to Col Nasser on May 18

The Egyptian Government has also decided to send a military delegation to China, at the invitation of the Minister of Defence, Marshal Peng Teh-huai.

France-Presse's correspondent in Peking reports Mr Chou's invitation to Col Nasser was in line with the Chinese Communist policy to hold direct discussions with all the countries which took part in last year's Bandung conference.

The Pakistani Prime Minister, Mr Mohamad Ali, and the Indonesian President, Dr Sukarno, are also due to visit Peking soon.

The new Ceylon Prime Minister, Mr Bandaranaike, said recently that he might visit China.

A simple guess is that China is doing its best to consolidate Asian-African cooperation and strengthen its hand at the next conference.

FRANCE PRESSE

*Annex H*

May 22, 1956

EXECUTIVE PLAN FOR SINO-EGYPTIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT

CAIRO, May 21:- An executive plan for 1956-1957 under the recently concluded Sino-Egyptian Cultural Cooperation Agreement was signed here yesterday. The plan contained details of cultural exchange and cooperation to be carried out by both countries in this period. (HSINHUA)

~~Hollywood~~ \* Egypt textile factory looms, spinning frames, \*

SINO-EGYPTIAN TRADE GREATLY DEVELOPED

*Annex I*

PEKING, May 23:- The amount of imports and exports between China and Egypt has reached a sum of some 15 million pounds sterling since the signing of the trade agreement between the two countries last August, it is learned from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade today.

Exports from China to Egypt totalled over six million pounds sterling while those from Egypt to China totalled over eight million pounds sterling.

China purchased large quantities of cotton and cotton yarn from Egypt. Egypt purchased in turn from China a large variety of commodities including bulk shipments of rolled steel, tobacco, tea, raw silk, plywood and paper. In March and April this year, China exported to Egypt textile factory looms, spinning frames, shuttles and many other articles which had not previously been exported to Egypt before.

At present various Chinese corporations are continuing to negotiate business transactions with trade departments of the Egyptian Government and members of Egyptian industrial and commercial circles. It is expected that before August this year, the protocol on the first year of the trade agreement between China and Egypt will have been accomplished successfully.

(HSINHUA)

163/11/11

VISIT TO CHINA  
RECEIVED 18 JUN 1956



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TRADE COMMISSIONER

18 JUN 1956

PEKING, May 24:- Premier and Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, Mr. G. M. Fadden, has sent a message to the Minister of External Affairs, Mr. H. V. Evatt, regarding the visit of the Egyptian Prime Minister and his delegation to China.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

P. O. BOX NO. 820  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:  
"AUSTRADE"  
TELEPHONE: 28062

C/- AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TRADE COMMISSIONER  
P. & O. BUILDING, CONNAUGHT ROAD  
HONG KONG.

File No 722  
28th May, 1956.  
Memo No 293

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

VISIT TO CHINA BY EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER  
AND MILITARY DELEGATION

Further to my memorandum No 292 of 25th May I am enclosing copies of the relevant letters or invitations forwarded to the Egyptian Government by Chou En-lai and Peng Teh-huai (Annex B) on 18th May (Hsinhua News Agency texts). Annex C which is a Hsinhua News Agency report dated 25th May gives the texts of the Egyptian replies.

2. A further brief Peking report of the same date (25<sup>th</sup> May) refers to a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement to the effect that -

"The governments of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Egypt have decided to exchange ambassadors and establish embassies in each other's country."

*W.P.J. Handmer*  
(W.P.J. Handmer)  
Third Secretary

*GR*

NASSER INVITED TO VISIT CHINA

Annex A

PEKING, May 24:- Premier Chou En-lai of the People's Republic of China sent on May 18 a message to Prime Minister Nasser of the Republic of Egypt inviting him to visit China. On the same day, Chinese Minister of Defence Peng Tch-huai also sent a letter to General Abdel Hakim Amer, Minister of the Army and the Navy of the Republic of Egypt, inviting a military delegation of the Egyptian Government to visit China.

It is learnt that the Office of the Commercial Representative of the Government of the Republic of Egypt in China has informed the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Egyptian Government has already decided to accept these two invitations extended by the Chinese Government. (HSINHUA)

LETTERS TO EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER  
OF ARMY AND NAVY

*Amer B*

PEKING, May 24:- Premier Chou En-lai and Minister of Defence Peng Teh-huai of the People's Republic of China sent on May 18 letters of invitation to Prime Minister Nasser and General Amer, Minister of the Army and the Navy of the Republic of Egypt. The text of Chou En-lai's letter follows:

His Excellency Gamal Abdel Nasser,  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Egypt

Excellency:

On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, I have the honour to invite you, Mr. Prime Minister, to visit China on behalf of the Egyptian Government. I am convinced that your visit to China will not only contribute to the further development of the friendly relations between our two countries, but also be of great significance in promoting friendly cooperation among Asian and African countries and safeguarding world peace.

The Chinese people will be greatly honoured if Your Excellency should accept the invitation of the Chinese Government. We are fully ready to arrange the date and programme of your visit to China according to your desire. I eagerly await your reply.

I take this opportunity to send you, Mr. Prime Minister, my high respects.

(Signed)  
Chou En-lai,  
Premier of the State Council of  
the People's Republic of China  
(cont'd)

- 1 -

RECEIVED  
CHINESE LEADERS ACCEPT INVITATION OF CHINESE GOVERNMENT  
TO VISIT CHINA  
TUNISIA, May 25th. Egyptian Prime Minister Nasser has telephoned to Foreign Minister Chou En-lai accepting the invitation of Chinese Premier Zhou En-lai, according to a Foreign Ministry press release here.  
In addition, Egyptian Defence Minister Abdel Hakim Amer has also replied to Chinese Minister Marshal Peng Teh-huai's letter of invitation for the Egyptian military delegation to visit China.

May 25, 1956

The text of Peng Teh-huai's letter follows:

His Excellency General Abdel Hakim Amer,  
Minister of the Army and the Navy of the Republic of Egypt

Excellency:

On behalf of the Ministry of Defence of the People's Republic of China, I have the honour to invite a military delegation of your government to visit China. We sincerely hope you will accept this invitation. It is requested that the date of the visit of your military delegation to China be arranged in accordance with your convenience. I am convinced that the visit of a military delegation of your country will further increase the friendship between the peoples and the armed forces of our two countries and contribute to the safeguarding of world peace.

Accept, Excellency, my high respects.

(Signed)

Peng Teh-huai,  
Minister of Defence of the  
People's Republic of China  
(HSINHUA)

I am sending you an invitation for an Egyptian military delegation to visit your country and I hope to be able in the near future to fix the exact date of the visit. I am convinced that the exchange of visits by military delegations will further increase the friendship between the peoples and the armed forces of our two countries and contribute to the safeguard of world peace.

Kindly accept, Excellency, my highest consideration.

(HSINHUA)

\* \* \*

- 1 -

EGYPTIAN LEADERS ACCEPT INVITATION TO VISIT CHINA

PEKING, May 25:- Egyptian Prime Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser has replied to Premier Chou En-lai accepting his invitation to visit this country, according to a Foreign Ministry press release today.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Defence Minister Abdel Hakim Amer has also replied to Defence Minister Marshal Peng Teh-huai accepting his invitation for an Egyptian military delegation to visit China.

Their letters, dated May 24, were delivered to Vice-Foreign Minister Chang Wen-tien by the Egyptian Commercial Representative, Mr. Farr, here today.

The full text of Prime Minister Nasser's letter reads:

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Egypt, I have the pleasure to accept your invitation to visit your country. I am convinced that the exchange of these visits will not only increase the useful co-operation between our two countries, but will also contribute to the further development of the friendly relations among Asian and African countries with the ultimate aim of safeguarding world peace and upholding the principles of Bandung.

I take this opportunity to express to the great Chinese nation the best wishes of the Egyptian people, and I hope to answer your invitation in the near future.

Kindly accept, Mr. Prime Minister, my highest consideration.

The full text of Defence Minister Abdel Hakim Amer's letter reads:

On behalf of the armed forces of the Republic of Egypt, I have the honour to accept your invitation for an Egyptian military delegation to visit your country and I hope to be able in the near future to fix the exact date of the visit. I am convinced that the exchange of visits by military delegations will further increase the friendship between the peoples and the armed forces of our two countries and contribute to the safeguard of world peace.

Kindly accept, Excellency, my highest consideration.

(HSINHUA)

\* \* \*

- 1 -

  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**SAVINGRAM.**

163/11/11

163/11/11

163/11/11

163/11/11

HMC:AS

I.7323-4

Dated: 25th May, 1956

FROM:

Rec'd: 31st May, 1956

Australian Embassy,  
WASHINGTON.

. SAV.77. **CONFIDENTIAL.**

Egypt.

Copy London, Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York.

We have discussed recent developments in Egypt with Geran (Egyptian Desk), using as a basis of reference statements by Dulles at his press conference of 22nd May (our memorandum 643). Principal points made by Geran are summarised below:-

**2. Recognition of Communist China.**

This had taken the United States by surprise, although there had, of course, been some signs that Egypt might recognise Peking at some future time. The purpose and timing of Nasser's move were matters of speculation, but it seemed the main object was to strike a blow at the West. The week before at Gaza Nasser had delivered a strong anti-West, anti-United States and anti-N.A.T.O. speech, and recognition move appeared linked with this. Nasser appeared to believe that the N.A.T.O. powers had decided to back Israel (cf. 24 Mysteres which had recently been delivered) - which was completely untrue - and to have, therefore, decided to retaliate by moving closer to the Communist camp. Another reason being advanced for the recognition move was that, if there should be United Nations' embargo on arms to the Middle East, Egypt would still be able to obtain arms from Communist China (arms would not even need to come from China, but could be purchased by China in the Soviet or Czechoslovakia for delivery to Egypt). Geran added that Nasser's manner of extending recognition to Peking was extremely ~~discourteous~~ to the Nationalists whose Ambassador had not even been officially informed but had learned the news from a public announcement.

**3.** Amongst other Arab countries, Syria was the only country so far of which there was clear evidence of intention to follow the Egyptian lead. Press reports suggested Jordan and Lebanon might also do so, but there had been no evidence that the Governments concerned were contemplating recognition. It seemed unlikely that Saudi Arabia would recognise Peking.

**4. Aswan Dam.**

The United States had no evidence that (as the press had suggested) Egypt was "preparing to accept Soviet offer", certainly been quite a change since Black's visit to Cairo, when "agreement in principle" on bank financing of project (with Western aid) had been announced. Nasser had since demanded that Western offers be put on long-term basis, though he was fully aware of United States difficulties in this regard. He had also decided that he

**CONFIDENTIAL**

*Copy and  
K.Cairns  
A.16/56*

CONFIDENTIAL

SAVINGRAM. 7323-4

wanted the question of division of waters settled before commencing the project, and there was now little chance of anything starting before 1957. On division of waters, Sudan was proving a strong defender of its own rights and was highly critical of the site of the proposed dam (on grounds of excessive evaporation in the area); Ethiopia also was now advancing its claims; and the British and Belgians were likely to reserve rights on behalf of their African territories. Obviously, therefore, the project was taking on a more complex character than at first appearance, and there was even some evidence that the Egyptians themselves were losing enthusiasm for it. Meanwhile, the United States was marking time to see what Congress did with the President's request for long-term aid authority and also to see what the Egyptians finally intended to do. The United States would not (as Dulles had pointed out) be inclined to participate in the project jointly with the Soviet.

5. Nasser.

Geran would not say that Dulles' remarks represented any "change" in United States attitude towards Nasser. The United States had long had "suspicions" about Nasser, and Dulles' words merely reflected this in connection with a particular issue (recognition of Communist China). Nasser was extending Egyptian activities and propaganda on an ever-widening scale already spreading from Algeria to Zanzibar. Nasser was, in fact practising "imperialist" techniques that he so vehemently denounced in others, even to the extent of direct interference in the internal affairs of other countries, e.g. Jordan. (Geran, despite his disclaimer of "change" in United States' view of Nasser, gave definite impression that the United States was beginning to see Nasser as potential major threat to the West in the Middle East. This would contrast sharply with earlier hopeful view of Nasser as potential "stabilising" influence in the Arab world who, since Egypt's national aspirations were realised, would lead Arabs towards reasonable settlement with Israel. It is, however, only an impression and probably the United States' view of Nasser remains fairly fluid).

6. Libya.

Geran rather discounted press reports of threat to Western bases in Libya resulting from anti-West propaganda by Egyptian agents and Soviet offers of aid. Certainly there were potential difficulties which might be accentuated by Egyptian efforts, but Libya so far was cause of satisfaction to United States. It had, in fact, already declined Soviet aid offer, and there seemed little inclination in Libya to give up United States and United Kingdom payments for bases.

MIN&DEPT EA  
MIN&DEPT DEFENCE

31st May, 1956

|         |      |       |     |        |    |       |       |    |
|---------|------|-------|-----|--------|----|-------|-------|----|
| SEC     | A/Ss | UN    | ER  | PAC&AM | EA | AM&SP | S&SEA | SA |
| E AF&ME | E    | AF&ME | INF | DL     | MT | C&P   |       |    |
| G       |      |       |     |        |    |       |       |    |

CONFIDENTIAL



163/11/11

**CONFIDENTIAL**

28 MAY 1956

the closer diplomatic and commercial relations between the People's Republic of China and the People's Democratic Republic of CZECHOSLOVAKIA would help to strengthen

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,  
CAIRO.

In reply quote No. 66/5/1

Memo No. 273

19th May, 1956

**CONFIDENTIAL**The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA.Egypt's Recognition of People's Republic  
of China

Reference is made to my telegram No. 86 of 17th May informing you that Egypt decided on Wednesday night to recognize the People's Republic of China.

2. The Head of the Commercial Office of the People's Republic of China was called immediately to the Presidency and informed of the decision but the Ambassador for Nationalist China, who is also the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, was not called to the Foreign Office until 24 hours later when he was informed that Egypt had withdrawn recognition of his Government. A further courtesy was that he was informed of this by the Permanent Under Secretary and not by the Foreign Minister. The press had been given the information at the same time as the Commercial Representative of Communist China.

3. Official reasons given for the change were:-

1. Mao-Tse-Tung's Government represented 600,000,000 people, of whom 50 million were adherents of the Moslem faith;
2. The People's Republic of China had participated in the Bandung Conference;
3. States, which were listed, had already recognized the People's Republic of China;
4. The Trade Agreement concluded last year between Egypt and the People's Republic provided for the purchase of £15,000,000 worth of cotton by China and £5,000,000 worth of iron and oil by Egypt.

4. It has been obvious for some time that Egypt would take this step, but the manner of implementing it - like Glubb Pasha's dismissal - leaves a lot to be desired. Recently the People's Republic of China arranged a large-scale commercial exhibition and the exhibits were subsequently presented to Egypt. Also a strong attempt was made to cultivate public favour by the Commercial Mission from the People's Republic of China extending the Exhibition and granting free entry to the public on the last few days. Money was also spent lavishly on decorations and flags. It was obvious, too, from the quality of the members of the Commercial Mission that the aims were political as well as commercial.

5. The Russian Ambassador to Egypt had an 80-minute discussion with Nasser during which he discussed Soviet policy so far as the Middle East was concerned and subsequently he made a statement to

copy to Paris and  
Amman  
London

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

GR

2. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

the press stating that the recognition of the People's Republic of China by Egypt was "an historic decision which would help to strengthen world peace and to consolidate relations between two great nations". Moscow Radio in its Arabic transmission on Thursday said that "the importance of this step was obvious and proved the unity and strength of the Asian countries which had participated in the Bandung Conference."

6. It is most likely that other Arab countries will follow Egypt's lead and recognize Communist China and there seems little prospect of the Nationalist Chinese Government's statement from Formosa being put into effect. This statement referred to Egypt's recognition of "the Bogus Peking Regime" and said that Nationalist China would step up diplomatic relations with other Middle Eastern countries.

7. The daily newspaper, "Al Gomhouria", which is the semi-official mouthpiece of the Egyptian Revolutionary Regime, published a leading article in Arabic on the recognition of the People's Republic of China. The Arab News Agency's English translation is attached, and its veracity seems beyond doubt, even though it is incomprehensible for a Westerner to understand its vituperative, abusive and ill-balanced references to a Government with whom Egypt had friendly diplomatic relationships until a few days ago. These relationships were broken off because of Egypt's reassessment of the relative positions of the two Chinese Governments, and not because of any action or statement of the Nationalist Chinese Government.

8. The attached statement is indicative of recent methods and attitudes condoned - and I feel sure, inspired - by the Egyptian Government in its foreign relationships with non-Communist and Egyptian-called "Imperialist" countries. It is no excuse for responsible Egyptian Ministers and semi-official agencies to claim that these unbridled outbursts are made on their own responsibility - or as Colonel Anwar el Sadat, Minister of State, so naively expresses it, "as a simple Egyptian".

A. R. Cutler

(A. R. Cutler)  
MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

*Curriculum  
excluding  
Diplomatic  
Institute  
Chang Kai-shek  
Greece PA  
Suez Canal*

Translation of leading article of "AL GOMHOURIA", 19th May, 1956.

#### OUTLAWS

"The news of Egypt's recognition of the People's Republic of China fell like a thunderbolt on the heads of the imperialists, their stooges and agents everywhere. Formosa's Foreign Minister, in the name of his imperialist masters, expressed the hope that the Arab states would be wiser than to follow Egypt's example, while his deputy had the temerity to assert that the recognition was a violation of the United Nations Charter, adding that Egypt would surely regret the step one day.

"The poisoned Chang Kai-shek press even went so far as to demand the intervention of the Atlantic Pact powers to prevent the shipment of further Russian arms to Egypt. It also urged the re-occupation of the Suez Canal Zone.

"To help readers form a correct idea as to the real value of this hysterical campaign, a word is necessary about its frenzied authors - Chang Kai-shek and his perverted followers. In fact, they represent nothing more than a group of veritable gangsters, violators of all international laws, human rights and principles. Liberated China a long time ago ejected that outlaw into the bosom of his imperialist masters who installed the notorious archbrigand and his gang of cut-throats in Formosa.

"Many were the occasions on which high sounding but empty phrases were put into Chang's mouth, who often bragged of recovering China with its 600 million inhabitants. Such baseless utterances were invariably received with contempt and ridicule in all quarters.

"Today his Foreign Minister counsels the Arab states to distinguish between friends and foes. As a matter of fact, we do know who are our true friends and who are our deadly enemies. We can do without Chang's Foreign Minister's advice, for the simple reason that we know the real source of these "priceless gems" is none other than imperialism.

"Then comes Chang's Deputy Foreign Minister who adds insult to injury, by the baseless assertion that Egypt's recognition of People's China constitutes a violation of the United Nations Charter. Ye venomous vipers and villainous brigands and cut-throats who counsel us to ignore the existence of no fewer than 600 million souls. You would be well advised yourselves to know that we are no longer under the sway of any foreign influence or foreign domination, and that the Bandung resolutions have become fundamental principles of a new life in which mankind enjoys the blessings of peace, progress and prosperity".

.....

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

The Times  
London

File No.

163/11/11  
Date 26 May 1956

Published at

COL. NASSER TO VISIT  
PEKING

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT  
CAIRO, MAY 25

Colonel Nasser has accepted an invitation from Mr. Chou En-lai to visit China. It is also officially confirmed that an Egyptian military mission, representing all three services, will also go to Peking.

AF.ME.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper *U.S. Information Service*  
Published at *Sydney*

File No. *163/11/11*  
Date *23rd May 1956*

U.S. REGRETS EGYPT'S  
RECOGNITION OF RED CHINA.

Washington, May 22 - (USIS) -- Secretary of State Dulles said today the United States regrets Egypt's decision to recognize Communist China. The Secretary told his news conference he did not think it would appreciably improve the Peiping regime's chances of gaining admission to the United Nations.

Mr. Dulles said the United States sympathizes with whatever action Premier Nasser takes along the lines which would guarantee genuine independence for Egypt, but stressed that the United States regretted the action of Egypt in extending diplomatic recognition behind the Bamboo Curtain.

In reply to a question he termed hypothetical, Mr. Dulles said he did not think the United States would be willing to co-operate with the Soviet Union if the Russians decide to help Egypt build the Aswan Dam across the Nile River.

The Secretary said the State Department so far has received no official information which confirms reports from Cairo that Egypt has successfully negotiated a deal with Communist China.

\* \* \* \* \*

AF.ME.

*Copy A183/11/11*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

*b7c a 167/2/2*

*Han*

S.2/3/1

Memo No. 279

22nd May, 1956

**CONFIDENTIAL**

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA.

Meeting of the Political Committee of the  
Arab League

An unscheduled meeting of the Political Committee of the Arab League which was concluded on 19th May was, we understand, intended to deal primarily with the question of the economic, political and cultural boycott of France. This was a sequel to the half-hearted resolution adopted at the last session of the Arab League Council, but press reports suggest that the proceedings of the meeting fell short of this aim.

2. The Committee certainly discussed the Algerian question and heard representatives of the Algerian Liberation Front, but the only decisions adopted were to the effect that the question should be raised before the Security Council rather than the General Assembly ("on the basis of legal studies") and that the Arab States should use their good offices with France and other countries to bring about the cessation of military operations against the Algerian nationalists and the recognition of Algeria as an independent state.

3. Something stronger might have been expected in view of the publicity given in the Cairo press to a recent press conference held by Abdel Kerim who is living in Cairo but in relative obscurity. He threatened to re-enter the battle himself and to carry the war to France. He has since denounced a possible partition of Algeria.

4. The meeting of the Political Committee at least confirmed the continuing differences within the League, as we understand that the Iraqi delegate attempted to raise the subject of a boycott of France. He has since stated that if need be Iraq alone will impose a boycott.

5. One other major topic discussed was the supply of arms to Israel. On this it was decided to protest to the countries supplying arms. This coincides with a report that Egypt has signed an arms agreement with Poland and with rumours that following her recognition of Communist China she may sign a similar agreement with that country.

6. Copy of this memorandum has been sent to Paris and Tel Aviv.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(H. D. White)  
First Secretary.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RR: ec

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CABLEGRAM.

I.6697

163/11/11  
163/18/2.

Dated: 17th May, 1956.  
Rec'd: 18th May, 1956.

FROM:-

Australian Legation,  
C A I R O .

86. CONFIDENTIAL.

Egypt decided last night to recognize the Peoples' Republic of China.

Reasons given for change were joint participation in Bandung Conference, hence agreement on principle, also trade accord. Commercial Office of the Peoples' Republic of China informed immediately but the Nationalists Ambassador who is Dean has not been advised even though press announcement made.

Cutler.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.  
P.M'S.

18th May, 1956.

SEC    A/Ss    UN    ER    PAC&AM    EA    AM&SP    S&SEN    SA    E    AF&ME  
INF    DL    C & P    ADMIN

G

CONFIDENTIAL

163/11/11.

CAIRO ON CHINA

- 18 -

CAIRO BROADCASTS ON EGYPT'S RECOGNITION OF CHINA

The Egyptian Council of Ministers' announcement that the Egyptian Republic officially recognised the Chinese People's Republic was broadcast, without amplification or comment, in Cairo's 18.30 news bulletin on 16th May.

The following item was broadcast in Cairo's 21.00 news bulletin on 16th May.

(text) "The Egyptian Council of Ministers tonight decided to recognise the Government of People's China and to exchange diplomatic representation with it.

"When asked about the date on which diplomatic representation between Egypt and People's China will take place, the Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmed Khairat replied: 'The measures for the exchange of diplomatic representation between the two countries will directly follow the recognition. The date of representation, however, has not been finally fixed.'

"The head of the Trade Bureau of People's China in Egypt visited the Premier's Office, where he met Wing Cdr. Ali Sabri, the Director of Political Affairs in the Premier's Office, who informed him of the Council of Ministers' decision about Egypt's formal recognition of the Chinese People's Republic. When asked his opinion regarding this decision, he answered that he is sure that the Chinese people will receive this news with much happiness, and that it will undoubtedly help to strengthen friendly relations between the Egyptian and Chinese peoples, and will help to consolidate world peace."

"When our political correspondent asked about the reasons which led to the Egyptian Government's formal recognition of the Chinese People's Republic, an official source said that the Government of People's China represents 600,000,000 people, a quarter of the world's population, and includes 50,000,000 Moslems. He added that People's China participated with the Asian-African bloc in the Bandung conference, one of the most important resolutions of which was to liquidate imperialism and to grant the colonised peoples the right of self-determination. He also said: 'One of the most important reasons for Egypt's recognition of People's China was the latter's opposition to military alliances. This conforms with the positive policy of neutrality which Egypt follows in its foreign relations.'

"The official source added that 23 States have recognised People's China. It is worthy of note that the Republic of Egypt and the Chinese People's Republic last year concluded a trade agreement, and each of them established a trade bureau in the other's capital. The trade agreement between the two countries was to the limit of £E20,000,000 annually. Under this agreement China purchased from Egypt £E15,000,000 worth of raw cotton and cotton yarn, and Egypt bought about £E5,000,000 worth of iron, cottonseed oil and beans at prices 20% lower than world market prices. This indicates that we saved £E1,000,000 in our total purchases from People's China."

In its 23.00 bulletin the radio said that Dr. Ho Feng-shan, the Ambassador of Nationalist China, was expected to leave Egypt soon; he was "surprised" by the Egyptian Government's decision, of which he had not yet been officially notified. In its 12.30 news bulletin on 17th May Cairo said that the "former Formosa Ambassador" had been informed of the Egyptian Government's decision to withdraw recognition of the "Formosa Government" following Egypt's recognition of Communist China. The broadcast also quoted the Middle East News Agency for a report that the Lebanon was considering recognition of People's China.

(ix) A radio interview with Col. Tawaya, who expressed his admiration for the hospitality and good sportsmanship of the Bulgarians and his hopes that there would be further sporting fixtures between the two countries.

(2) A Bulgarian Folk Dance-tune

(3) A Commentary - "The Policy of Peace and Friendship"

(text) "The Bulgarian People's Republic's foreign policy was and still is a policy of peace and friendship with all nations, near or far. The Bulgarian People's Republic now has diplomatic relations with 26 countries, among them the two Arab countries Egypt and Syria. The Bulgarian People's Republic's trade relations with various countries are expanding more and more. At present Bulgaria trades with 52 countries, to which she exports products such as electrical equipment, porcelain, tobacco, attar of roses and large quantities of preserved vegetables and fruit. She imports mainly machinery for the development of industry and agriculture. By adopting this peaceful policy Bulgaria has achieved important successes in expanding co-operation and mutual assistance with almost all the countries. Our diplomatic, economic and cultural relations are expanding with numerous countries. We must look forward with particular pleasure to the growing friendship and cordiality between the Bulgarian People's Republic and the People's Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Our relations with our neighbour Greece too have produced positive successes. It is possible to solve all outstanding and disputed questions where there is good understanding and (indistinct word).

"The Bulgarian Government is exerting and will exert efforts to improve and consolidate our relations with Turkey, for the expansion of trade and cultural relations, and to accomplish mutual confidence and good neighbourliness. The Bulgarian People's Republic's trade, cultural and political relations with other countries are expanding more and more. The trip in March of Zhivko Zhivkov, the Minister of Foreign Trade, to Egypt and Syria and the trade agreements concluded with those two countries is but an expression of this policy. The invitation extended by the Bulgarian Government to the Egyptian Premier, Gamal Abd al-Nasir, to visit our country, is also for the same purpose - the expansion of our co-operation with the Arab countries. The visit will take place in the autumn of this year. The exchanges of sporting visits and other cultural relations between the Bulgarian People's Republic and the Arab countries are no longer few.

"The Bulgarian Government pursues a socialist policy to industrialise the country and to develop agriculture progressively to raise the people's material standard and cultural level. The Bulgarian people, who support this policy and regard it as their own, are struggling with all their might for its fulfilment. The policy has guaranteed to our country great successes in the fields of economic and cultural construction. Bulgarian industry was developed in a short period, and new industries have been introduced which were non-existent before. Bulgaria's heavy industry, being the solid foundation of the national economy and of the people's prosperity, is growing and developing; in 1955 the production of Bulgaria's heavy industry was about five and a half times that of 1939. The products of Bulgarian light industries and food industries have increased too by more than two and a half times. In the past years agriculture has also achieved important successes. The results of the socialisation of agriculture are irrefutable proof of the supremacy of the system of co-operatives; about 77% of rural families and about 75% of land are now co-operatives. The Bulgarian people are now devoting their energy to fulfilling and over-fulfilling the national economic plan of the current year in industry, agriculture, communications, construction and trade. The Bulgarian people are courageously and with firm steps marching along the path of peace and friendship with all peoples, among whom are the peoples of the Arab countries, because it is the only path which will enable them to further their progress (indistinct word)."

IAL-Gumhour 1

Ca  
article com  
day.\*  
diplo  
parfe  
put  
towa  
said  
of 1

'Al-Gumhouriya' on the Egyptian Decision

Cairo's morning press review on 17th May gave the following account of an article commenting on Egypt's action which was published in 'Al-Gumhouriya' on that day.

(text) "Egypt's recognition of People's China has probably been a severe diplomatic blow felt by the West in every part of its structure. This is perfectly true. But Egypt's action is also a normal measure which Egypt could put off no longer, especially after the West adopted an attitude of open hostility towards Egypt in particular and Arab nationalism in general. It can even be said that the West's attitude to the Arabs itself procured Egypt's recognition of People's China and fixed the time for the announcement of this recognition.

"This does not mean that Egypt had not earlier recognised People's China. Trade exchange between the two countries, the Premier Gamal Abd al-Nasir's meeting in Bandung with Chou En-lai, the Premier of People's China, and the series of agreements which linked together the economic interests of Egypt and China were in fact practical recognition of People's China. What has now happened is merely the announcement of this recognition and the giving of a name to it.

"The tardiness of Egypt and the Arabs in recognising People's China was nothing but diplomatic courtesy towards the Western Powers. But these Powers acted in such a way as to make it impossible to continue any longer on the path of courtesy. Egypt's recognition of Red China thus marks the end of the era of courtesy and continues the march forward on the path of frankness free of equivocation, trickery, and prevarication.

"The China which Egypt recognises has a population of 600,000,000 and an area of 9,700,000 sq.km. It stretches from the eastern coast of Asia to the centre of that continent, and from the borders of Mongolia and northern Asia to the borders of India, Burma and Indochina. The China which those who dominate the Western Powers recognise, the China of the Formosa Government, has a population of 6,000,000, an area of 36,000 sq.km., and is situated on an island east of China which was previously occupied by the Japanese and was evacuated by them after the last war.

"The China recognised by the West is a great fallacy, while the China recognised by Egypt is a great reality. Since the Western Powers were not surprised at recognising Israel as a reality, logic dictates that equally they should not be surprised at Egypt's recognition of People's China as a reality. In recognising People's China the Arabs not only recognise reality but also choose friends who neither plot against us nor side with our enemies, and who do not export arms to Israel on the pretext of maintaining the balance of power in the Middle East, but instead export peace to the Middle East."

The following 'Al-Gumhouriya' article on international implications of Egypt's article was also quoted in the same press review as the above.

(text) "The USA is the big Power which still does not recognise the Peking Government, which represents 600,000,000 Chinese people. It is the big Western Power which continues to make every endeavour to thwart all international efforts designed to secure the admission of People's China to the UN. It is the big Western Power which continues to use every diplomatic artifice to make the Formosa Government, which represents less than 8,000,000 Chinese, retain a permanent seat in the Security Council on the pretext that it is one of the five big Powers. It is as if the Chinese revolution - which cleansed Chinese territory of foreign domination and corruption and made this large Asian country a great State - had never taken place.

"Many States have followed the leadership of the USA in refusing to recognise the Government of People's China and in opposing its admission to membership of the UN. Most of these countries, if not all, always sacrificed their international dignity and status for the sake of pleasing the politicians of Washington or for the sake of preserving their interests and their military and other compacts which required that they should cling to the American orbit."

"Fortunately, however, the world does not consist only of the USA and the countries which insist on linking themselves with foreign military pacts. For free countries conscious of their international status which realistically face the stark realities of this age, there was thus no alternative but to recognise the great new Asian Power at the appropriate moment - whether America wanted it or not. For these countries, which chose freedom and rallied together with People's China at the Bandung conference to raise a Great outcry against imperialism, foreign alliances and warmongers everywhere, there was no alternative but to decide that continued ignoring of the existence of People's China was neither reasonable nor logical."

"There is no doubt that Egypt's recognition of People's China will have serious international repercussions and far-reaching effects in the whole international sphere. All this will be made clear to us by the cables which will reach Egypt today from all over the world."

"In an interview with an American newspaper Nehru, the Asian leader, said that the anxiety which grips America as a result of the march of events in Asia in no way justifies shirking the facts. Many other countries will soon follow Egypt's suit and recognise People's China; and this will cause the balance to tip in favour of the big Asian Power in the matter of its admission to the UN. It would be no exaggeration to say that the splendid attitude adopted by the revolution Government towards this serious international problem will greatly weaken America's stand and eventually force it to face the international facts of life."

In an article quoted in Cairo's press review on 19th May 'Al-Gumhouriya' said that the "Formosan" Foreign Minister had said he hoped the Arab countries would have the wisdom not to follow Egypt's example; and another "Formosan" spokesman had said that Egypt's action was a violation of the UN Charter. Chiang Kai-shek's newspapers, 'Al-Gumhouriya' added, were urging NATO countries to take measures to stop Soviet arms from reaching Egypt, and to occupy Suez. 'Al-Gumhouriya' commented:

(excerpts) "Chiang Kai-shek and his clique are a group of outlaws - outlaws in the eyes of civil, international and natural law. Free China booted out Chiang Kai-shek and his clique long ago. His imperialist friends then took him under their wings and set him up with his clique as highwaymen in Formosa. We do not need your advice, Formosan Foreign Minister, for we know full well the source of this advice. We know that these precious gems are given to you by imperialism."

The appeal to NATO by the "mercenary press of Formosa", 'Al-Gumhouriya' added, showed that the "outlaws of Formosa" were in the grip of hysteria.

#### Ahmed Sa'id's "Voice of the Arabs" Commentaries

(1) The following are excerpts from Ahmed Sa'id's commentary which was broadcast in the "Voice of the Arabs" programme on 17th May.

(excerpts) "At last Egypt has recognised the Chinese People's Republic. The recognition of this great State, which met Egypt at Bandung to lay down the basis of world peace, to assert the rights of people to self-determination and to call for the freedom, safety and security of every country, was inevitable. This recognition should have taken place before, since the Chinese People's Republic has supported us in everything good, has wished us prosperity and has offered us means of well-being. Together

"In exchange of some foreign domination we should have had Chamour has been Republic. Have such industries and themselves and markets." [Signature]

"In refused to read absolute counts ignored every such industries and themselves and markets." [Signature]

we exchange elements of strength and march forward on the path of liberation from every foreign domination. Egypt should have recognised the Chinese People's Republic, and we should have had enough of deceiving ourselves and of being polite to the West. Clamour has been raised in the West against Egypt's recognition of the Chinese People's Republic. Have these Western Powers forgotten that we were polite to them despite the suffering they inflicted on us?

"In 1948 the Chinese People's Republic was established, and the Western Powers refused to recognise it. We too refused with the Western Powers, which used to exercise absolute control over our policy, ignoring our political and economic interests. We ignored every interest we might have with a people numbering 660,000,000, possessing such industrial and agricultural potential as to qualify it to be the greatest, richest and strongest State in the world. We ignored the possibility of establishing between ourselves and the Chinese People's Republic a friendship which would open to us new markets, instead of the markets in which the West was trying to strangle us... We ignored the support of the hundreds of millions of Chinese for our struggle for our rights... We ignored the vast offers of strength, which might have reinforced our own strength and put an end to Zionist aggression, for the sake of the West, which armed Israel and denied us the arms. We ignored our interests ... in the hope that the West might recover its reason; but instead it established Israel in the heart of the Arab land.

"However, there was a world of difference between the two events, the establishment of the Chinese People's Republic and of Israel. The establishment of the Chinese People's Republic was achieved by a nation on its own territory for its own sons, while Israel was brought about by the establishment of gangs to steal land which did not belong to them and to render people homeless so that their country might be occupied by vagrants. This occurred with the help of the West, despite our courtesy to it, our silence on its ruinous exploitation of our resources, its lies and promises and our numerous sacrifices to help it in its wars. The West continued to ignore its duty, as a result of our being over-polite to it and our being so naive as to think that it might restore our rights some day.

"Two minutes after the proclamation of the establishment of Israel the former American President, Truman, recognised her, and then Britain, France and the rest of the Western States. Not a single one of them was polite to us or showed any respect for our feelings... Nevertheless we continued to cherish the hope that the West would realise the reality of our value and would not be biased in favour of our enemy. We cherished this hope for years, ignoring for the West's sake that the Chinese People's Republic was a real fact, while the West told us that Israel in its present position was a real fact too. Then in 1950 the West announced its Tripartite Declaration affirming its protection of Israel, the necessity of her existence, the need to safeguard her frontiers and to hold her equal to the Arabs in arms and financial, economic and moral support... This is the attitude of the West towards us and our enemy. Should we, O Arabs, continue to have any hope in it? We were polite to it but it scorned us. We respected its feelings but it ridiculed ours. We protected its rear but it stabbed us in the back. It met in Paris to discuss our fate, to unite against us, to arm our enemy and to kill our struggle in Palestine and Algeria. After all this open hostility is there any good to be hoped from the West?

"The Chinese People's Republic is a State consisting of 660,000,000 people of whom 50,000,000 are Moslems... We do not want to enumerate the advantages of recognising the Chinese People's Republic, but all we want to say today, now that Egypt has recognised it, is that it is the Chinese People's Republic which bought from Egypt cotton to the value of ££15,000,000, before Egypt's recognition, as part of an annual deal estimated at ££20,000,000. This deal exceeds the ££19,000,000 with which France buys Egyptian goods, including cotton, in one year. In other words the Chinese People's Republic, which we ignored for so long ... has from the commercial point of view surpassed France, with whom we have relations which should have required her to respect our feelings and not to be hostile to our aspirations.

"The Chinese People's Republic supports our rights in Palestine and our neutral policy. It works with us for the freedom, security and prosperity of all mankind, unlike

France, Britain, the USA and the rest of the Western States... Should we continue to hold the same illusions about the West?... Should we sacrifice our freedom, our Palestine, our resources, our future generations and our Arabism for the sake of the West, which slights our feelings, steals our rights, betrays our aspirations, supports our enemy, strangles our economy and kills our sons? Our experience bids us adhere to our interests and struggle for them. Let our interests dictate our path, for that is independence, freedom, glory and well-being for us and the whole of mankind."

(ii) The following are excerpts from Ahmed Sa'id's commentary in "The Voice of the Arabs on 18th May.

(excerpts) "O Arabs, today the whole world is talking about you - East, West, North and South, those who are your enemies and those of the world's sons who are with you. One of your States has taken a big decision which will have a great influence on the shaping of your future and that of the world towards you, the future of your enemies as well as of your friends.

"Egypt has recognised the Chinese People's Republic. This recognition in itself has no effect or danger, because there are 23 States in the world which have already recognised the Chinese People's Republic. Even Britain, one of the great Western Powers whose policy opposes that of the Communist States, recognises the Chinese People's Republic, trades with it and exchanges diplomatic missions with it. She even sends some strategic materials to China, despite the well-known Western Powers' agreement which prohibits the sending of any military material to the Chinese People's Republic.

"The effect of this recognition becomes noble and momentous when one considers the arrangements that led up to it, the meaning deriving from it and the aims we seek to arrive at. O Arabs, today we are free, free to plan our own policy to suit our interests. We take no step to right or left unless such a step will achieve an Arab interest and bring a gain to an Arab victory, or emphasise the honour of Arabism and its hope for a free life. On the basis of this freedom and on the basis of this understanding of freedom, on the basis of the perception (indistinct word) of the interests of the Arabs, on these bases has Egypt recognised the Chinese People's Republic.

"Egypt, like all the Arab States, lived for decades under the heel of the colonising West. Whenever the Arab States tried to liberate themselves the colonising States hastened to tie them to colonialism; their economy became part of the coloniser's economy; their currency, a symbol of their independence, was guaranteed by the coloniser's currency; the symbol of their nationality was obliterated by the coloniser's culture; the policy of their interests was planned in accordance with the policy of the same coloniser. In this way the Arabs lived for decades, during which the colonisers exploited all their resources. It was natural that when the Arab nation awoke and its consciousness grew stronger and the supporters of colonialism were repulsed the Arab nation should liberate itself from colonial oppression in military, economic and cultural fields.

"Egypt liberated herself from the coloniser's military oppression by the withdrawal of the British forces from the Canal zone. Egypt freed herself from the coloniser's political oppression by taking a stand against him and his alliances. Egypt freed herself from the coloniser's economic domination by her numerous trade pacts with the Eastern bloc. And finally Egypt has freed herself from the coloniser's imaginary domination by recognising the Chinese People's Republic, which the British coloniser does too. In the past we used to imagine that our recognition would be an act of disobedience, despite his recognition of China and his extensive trade with her and his firm diplomatic relations which have been in existence since the birth of the new China.

"Egypt met the Chinese People's Republic for the first time at Bandung... There China's hope for the well-being of mankind met Egypt's. Egypt, like China, realised as a result of the Afro-Asian conference that by uniting the efforts of the free men who desire peace and by the co-operation of those desiring the well-being of mankind great benefits would be reaped by both countries..."

EGYPT  
from China; the  
efforts of all  
value amounts  
hundreds of Chi  
dozens of EGYP  
emphasises EG  
support for t  
WY  
Chinese Peop  
all Arabs.  
recognition  
imperialism  
furthermore  
alliance w  
alliance w

"Egyptian missions have gone to China, and similar missions have come to Egypt from China; these missions cover industry, agriculture, armaments and Islam. The efforts of all these missions have materialised in a gigantic agreement; its economic value amounts to £E20,000,000; its cultural value is manifested in the fact that hundreds of Chinese Moslems are studying at Al-Azhar University and that there are dozens of Egyptian teachers in the Moslem schools of China; its political value emphasises Egypt's freedom and supports (indistinct word) Arab hopes and secures China's support for the Arab nation in the international situation.

"Yes, there are many assets to be gained from Egypt's recognition of the Chinese People's Republic. These assets will be gained not only by Egypt but also by all Arabs. Because of these assets upholders of colonialism rose in anger when Egypt's recognition of the Chinese People's Republic was announced. Imperialism - British imperialism, for example - deals with the Chinese People's Republic, trades with it and furthermore recognises it, and supplies it with strategic materials despite Britain's alliance with the USA and France. Yet the very same imperialism denies Egypt the right to deal with the Chinese People's Republic or to trade with her... Why should imperialism adopt such an attitude? Because it wants to surround the Arab countries with a high wall behind which it can imprison all the Arab States to impose on them what it wants; and to be able to fix the price it likes for their goods and resources; and to harness their life and development in its service. But if Egypt sets herself free from its clutches and liberates her resources from its domination to allow her Arabs to act in accordance with their own interests, regardless of its interests, that would be the destruction and the end of imperialism. That is the secret of the outcry and the clamour which has broken out in the West against Egypt.

"The American AP reports from London that the latter has started to exert pressure on the Arab States to stop them following Egypt's example in recognising the Chinese People's Republic. The agency also reports that a series of important meetings have been held between the British Government authorities and representatives of the USA and France to draft a plan to bring united Western pressure to bear on the Arab States. The same news agency reports from Washington that American official circles are asking whether other member States of the Arab League will follow Egypt's example... The USA intends to exert pressure on the remaining member States of the Arab League to prevent them if possible from recognising the Chinese People's Republic. The US State Department spokesman declined to criticise officially Egypt's attitude because the USA has allies like Britain which recognised the Chinese People's Republic before Egypt did.

"World news agencies report what they call the comments of the capitals of the West on Egypt's recognition of the Chinese People's Republic. It is reported that French political circles say the French Government has received a severe slap in the face from the Egyptian Government in its recognition of the Government of the Chinese People's Republic. These French circles anticipate that Egypt's recognition of the Chinese People's Republic at this time will result in the failure of the French Premier's Moscow talks in connection with the French-Algerian conflict... Only yesterday the Russian Ambassador in Cairo emphasised, following Egypt's recognition of the Chinese People's Republic, that Soviet policy in the Middle East would always support the Arabs, as it did before the Soviet leaders' visit to Britain.

"British circles fear that Egypt's recognition of the Chinese People's Republic may redouble her growing difficulties with the Arabs, who are longing for their freedom... This recognition of the Chinese People's Republic by Egypt has emphasised that Egypt is a free, independent State - a State which is controlled by its own interests and those of the Arabs..."

"Yes, the West is in fear, anxiety and confusion. The West sees in Egypt's recognition of the Chinese People's Republic a serious matter which it does not see in the recognition of the Chinese People's Republic by one of its great Powers, namely Britain. The West fears that the current of liberation may expand to include all Arab States... Colonialism is attempting to check the stream of Arab nationalism which is working to rid Arabism of every imperialist influence. The Arab nation looks forward to its complete freedom and calls on its leaders to follow Egypt's example and liberate their countries from imperialism..."

## CAIRO ON CHINA

- 24 -

"The 'Washington Post' says that Egypt's recognition of the Chinese People's Republic is a slap in the face for the American school of thought which still holds fast to the view that the USA retains some influence in the Arab countries. Quotations from George Anderson's 'Combat' article follow."

"O West, do not expect us to stand by you while you stand by our enemies and do not stand by us. Do not expect us to consider your feelings while you do not consider ours and instead support our murderers in Palestine, Algeria and other places in the Arab countries. Do not think at any time that we shall think of your interests while you do not protect ours and respect our leadership. O West, we have awakened... O West, we have been liberated."

(iii) In a "Voice of the Arabs" commentary on 19th June Ahmed Sa'id returned to the subject of Britain's recognition of the Chinese People's Republic. The British press, he said, had supported recognition not only because People's China was an accomplished fact, but also because "they did not want Britain, in order to satisfy the Americans, to lose the millions which she reaped from her long-established China trade". Britain had in fact urged the USA to recognise People's China and to agree to its admission to the UN; and the UN Secretary-General had urged the same. Ahmed Sa'id continued:

"Consider, O Arabs, all these views, not only those of Britain with her greedy intentions, or the Communist friends like the Russians or those linked by mutual benefits such as the Burmese. Consider the views of this international personality, the UN Secretary-General... Consider all this and then tell us whether Egypt is right to recognise People's China... We will not mention today the benefits Egypt and the Arab nation expect to reap in the future as a result of recognising the Chinese People's Republic... We shall not tell you about the State Department spokesman's statement about unconfirmed reports of a large deal of arms between Egypt and the Chinese People's Republic... We shall not tell you what will appear in the American 'Newsweek' in its issue of Monday about US intelligence reports that Egypt will receive 50 jet fighters within a fortnight and that Syria has recently received 28 Russian tanks of the (F.34) type which are lined up together with other similar tanks along the Israeli frontiers... All that we want to remind you of today is that Egypt has not done more than Britain had done. But what Britain is allowed is denied us! This is their logic ... this is their colonisation. But must we submit to their will?... Must we deny ourselves what they allow themselves?"

Cairo Broadcasts on World Reaction

Cairo radio told listeners (19.5.56) that Chou En-lai, in a message to Abd al-Nasir, had "predicted that Egypt's recognition of People's China will foster cordial co-operation between Asian and African countries and contribute to safeguarding world peace". Cairo's "Voice of the Arabs" programme quoted an article in the Peking 'People's Daily' to the same effect.

On 17th May Cairo gave listeners a short account of Moscow radio's commentary broadcast in Arabic that morning; it noted that Moscow had said the Egyptian decision was "in full conformity with Egypt's national demands and those of the various Arab countries", and had spoken of the Syrian Deputies' demands for similar action by the Syrian Government.

A US comment which was much used in Cairo's "Voice of the Arabs" programme was that of the 'Washington Post', which was quoted as saying that Egypt's action was "a slap in the face for the American school of thought that still holds fast to the view that the USA retains some vestige of influence in the Arab States". A widely quoted French comment was that of 'Combat', that Egypt's decision was a diplomatic defeat for the West.

ARAB REACTION TO EGYPT'S RECOGNITION OF CHINA

The following reaction from Syria, the Lebanon and Jordan to Egypt's recognition of the Chinese People's Republic was reported by Cairo radio and ANA, as indicated.

Syria

Sa'id al-Ghazzi, the Syrian Premier, said on 17th May that Egypt was fully justified in recognising a State with a population of 600,000,000 and following a course in harmony with her own independent policy and that of the Arab States (ANA 17.5.56). He said on 18th May that the Syrian Government might study the question of recognising the Chinese People's Republic at its next meeting (Cairo 18.5.56).

Dr. Ma'arouf al-Dawalibi, leader of the Sha'ab Party, said that there was nothing strange about the recognition. What would have been strange would have been to delay recognition of a State with a population of 600,000,000. (ANA 17.5.56)

Dr. Munir al-Ajlani, an Independent, said he hoped that Syria and all Arab States would follow suit. (ANA 17.5.56)

Mohammed al-Mubarak, of the Islamic Parliamentary Bloc, supported Egypt's move and hoped that the Arab States would take similar steps. (ANA 17.5.56)

Fa'iz al-Khoury, former Ambassador in Moscow, said that Egypt deserved congratulation and that recognition of People's China by the other Arab States was undoubtedly coming. (Cairo 18.5.56)

'Al-Rei al-Am': Egypt has dealt the Western Powers a severe blow, one which will shake the capitals which welcomed the decision to send arms to Israel. Egypt's action is decisive proof that the Arabs will no longer remain with folded arms in the face of aggression. (Cairo: "Voice of the Arabs" 17.5.56)

'Sawt Al-Arab': Gamal Abd al-Nasir has dealt the West another blow. (Cairo: "Voice of the Arabs" 17.5.56)

'Al-Talia': Egypt's decision has opened the way for the free Arab countries to recognise People's China and to establish cordial relations with her. (Cairo: "Voice of the Arabs" 17.5.56)

'Al-Nasr': Henceforth the Arabs will not retreat and will show little concern over Western threats (Cairo: "Voice of the Arabs" 17.5.56). Egypt has proved that she is still at the height of her revolution, and she now ranks among the great nations of the world which have refused to bow to "American folly". The Syrian Government must follow Egypt's example (Cairo 18.5.56).

'Al-Qabas': International circles regard Egypt's step as a reply to Western plots against the Arabs in general and Egypt in particular. (Cairo: "Voice of the Arabs" 18.5.56)

'Al-Hadara': The decision shows that the Arabs are proceeding on the path of liberating their countries from every imperialist influence. (Cairo: "Voice of the Arabs" 18.5.56)

'Al-Sha'ab': Egypt's step has caused an uproar in the Western and Arab worlds. American and Western imperialism has begun to fear the bold liberal policy which the Arabs are adopting. (Cairo 18.5.56)

The Lebanon

Abdullah al-Yafi, the Lebanese Premier: Egypt is an independent sovereign State and is free to recognise any State she wishes, particularly People's China. (ANA 17.5.56)

Salim Lahoud, the Foreign Minister: There was nothing to prevent Egypt from recognising People's China since she is a de facto State, as is Formosa. (ANA 17.5.56)

Emile Bustani, the Minister of Works: I welcome Egypt's decision, which is in harmony with the interests of Egypt and the Arab countries. The Lebanon and other Arab countries which have not recognised People's China should do so as soon as possible. (Cairo 17.5.56)

'Al-Hayat': Egypt's recognition of the Peking Government is undoubtedly a serious step involving an unlimited number of possibilities, each of which can open new avenues for Communist political infiltration of Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries. (ANA 17.5.56)

Jordan

Samir al-Rifai, the Jordanian Premier: Egypt's decision is a most successful step. By it Egypt has met with great success. (Cairo home service and "Voice of the Arabs" 18.5.56)

Dr. Abd al-Rahman Shugair, leader of the National Front: Egypt's decision is a fulfilment of the Bandung resolutions and will help to develop Arab economy. (Cairo 18.5.56)

Sulaiman al-Hadidi, leader of the Ba'ath Party: The decision expresses the neutral policy of Egypt and the other Arab countries. (Cairo 18.5.56)

On 18th May Cairo radio also announced in the home and "Voice of the Arabs" services that parties and popular organisations in Jordan had sent telegrams to the Arab Governments and to the Arab League Political Committee now in session in Damascus appealing to them to follow Egypt's example and recognise People's China.

163/11/11.

C/- Australian Govt Trade Commissioner  
Hong Kong

File No 640

3rd May, 1956.

Memo No 259

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

### SINO-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

As enclosures to this memorandum I am forwarding copies of three Hsinhua News Agency reports concerning Sino-Egyptian trade and cultural cooperation.

2. According to the joint communiqué issued on 16th April 'in the course of the visit of the (Chinese) trade delegation to Egypt trade transactions were concluded between the two countries amounting to nearly four million pounds sterling.' These transactions included 'a large quantity of Egyptian cotton yarn and Chinese rolled steel, machinery and vegetable oil.'

3. On cultural cooperation an agreement was apparently signed on 15th April and took as its aim the carrying out of 'the spirit of the Bandung Conference resolution on cultural cooperation and the development of relations and cooperation between the two countries in the cultural field aimed at promoting mutual understanding, friendship, solidarity and a prosperous cultural life.'

4. Enclosures are:

ANNEX A Sino-Egyptian Trade Talks Communiqué -  
Peking 16 April

Chins, Egypt Sign Cultural Agreement -  
Cairo 16 April (15 April)

Observer on Sino-Egyptian Cooperation -  
Peking 18 April (People's Daily)

1 5

(W.P.J. Sandmer)  
Third Secretary

National Archives of Australia

NAA: A1838, 163/11/87

## DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

POMEFNewspaper  
published at.....

File No.

163/11/11  
18/4/56

SECRET

11. A Communiqué issued on April 16th in Cairo stated that Egypt and Communist China had agreed to expand their trade with each other. Deals to the value of £E4 million had been concluded during the Communist Chinese Trade and Industries Fair in Cairo in the past fortnight. According to Reuters the Egyptian Government also announced that an Egyptian Cultural Mission would leave Cairo shortly for Moscow at the invitation of the Soviet Government and that another Cultural Mission would visit Communist China. (Egypt still formally recognises Nationalist China). On April 14th the Royal Air Force vacated Abu Sueir, the last Suez Canal Zone airfield in British hands. Under the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement, the British retain landing rights there.

AFME

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper *The Times*  
Published at London

File No. 163  
Date 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1957

CHINA BUYING COTTON  
FROM EGYPT

CAIRO, April 2.—Communist China has bought £6m. worth of Egyptian cotton since last August, and will buy £4m. more by August this year under bilateral trade agreement. The Egyptian Commerce Minister, Mohamed Abou Nasseir, announced this to-day. Under the agreement China buys £10m. worth of Egyptian cotton and Egypt buys from China goods worth at least £2m.—Associated Press.

AF:ME

*F163/11*

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CABLEGRAM.**

VA:MB

I. 13872.

Dated: 24th October, 1955.  
2032  
FROM: Rec'd: 25th October, 1955.  
1430

Australian Embassy,  
WASHINGTON.

1222. CONFIDENTIAL.

Repeated saving Misc. 201 London, Saving Misc. 202  
Geneva (copy to Ottawa).

Our 1168.

Clough (China Desk) told us on 21st October that  
the meeting of 20th October had not resulted in any progress.  
Johnson had made statements on China's delay in releasing  
prisoners and on renunciation of force. Wang replied at  
length on the latter point along the familiar line that solution  
of the Formosa problem lay through the United States withdrawing  
its forces etc.

2. Clough commented that the Chinese press had  
virtually admitted that remaining United States prisoners were  
being held as hostages against political concessions.

3. The State Department so far has no confirmation  
of the reported delivery in Egypt of 100 tons of arms from  
Communist China.

-----  
A/MIN. & DEPT. E.A.  
P.M'S.

25th October, 1955.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

C/-  
Australian Govt. Trade Commissioner  
Hong Kong.

File No. 640

18th October, 1955.

Memo No. 727

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

SINO-EGYPTIAN TRADE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL

You will recall that in my memoranda Nos. 639/75 and 686 of 29th August, 20 and 27th September respectively I reported the signing (22 August) and ratification by the parties concerned of a Sino-Egyptian Trade Agreement, although at the time no detailed information was available. Hsinhua News Agency, however, has now released full texts of both the Agreement (Annex A) and protocol (Annex B) and these are attached to this memorandum.

2. Value of trade each way under the current protocol during the first 'agreement year' is set at ten million pounds sterling though in this regard the arrangements for payment, further negotiations, and balancing of trade as set out in Article 1 of the protocol should be noted. Attention is also drawn to the items 'raw cotton and super phosphates' which China has undertaken to import from Egypt although the Egyptian commitment has been by no means settled. Clearly, however, China's need for fertilisers is very great and the absence of adequate supplies has been frequently suggested as a major limiting factor in the expansion of agricultural production.

3. One further comment, which also applies as much to the Sino-Indonesian Trade Agreement as the present case, is the detailed nature of the trade arrangement just negotiated which contrasts most markedly with anything the United Kingdom business delegations have succeeded in achieving to date.

*[Signature]*  
(W. J. Handmer)  
Third Secretary

AFME

F 769/11/11  
163/11/11

C/- Australian Govt. Trade Commissioner  
Hong Kong.

File No. 640

20th September, 1955.

Memo No. 675

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

SINO-EGYPTIAN TRADE AGREEMENT

Referring to my memorandum No.639 of 29th August which reported on the negotiation of a Sino-Egyptian trade agreement on 22nd August, Hsinhua News Agency has now announced that the agreement was ratified by the Egyptian cabinet on 14th September.

*W.H.J. Handmer*  
(W.H.J. Handmer)  
Third Secretary

→ M.E.  
Aug - 766/3/5  
F 163/11/11  
28/9/55

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper..... News in English..... File No.... 163/11/11.....  
Published at..... Radio Peking..... Date..... 31st August 1955.

AF ME

163/11/11  
8. In Hong Kong the Egyptian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mohammed Abdul .., told the press on Monday that trade between China and Egypt had positively strengthened. He added that the relations between the two countries would be increasingly stronger by keeping to the spirit of the Bandung Agreement. delegation to China and signed the Trade Agreement with the Chinese Government. Asked what he had been influenzed by on his visit to China - he said that he was greatly impressed by the strength of Chinese and the steady flow of production.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper... The Sydney Morning Herald  
Published at... Sydney

File No. 163/11/11  
Date August 30 1955.

AF - ME.

**Egypt, China  
Trade Pact**

HONG KONG, Aug. 29  
(A.A.P.-Reuter).—An official Egyptian trade mission arrived to-day in Hong Kong after signing a three-year trade agreement with Red China.

The mission's 10 members spent three weeks discussing trade with Chinese officials in Peking.

The head of the mission, and Egyptian Minister for Commerce and Industry, Mohammed Abou Nossier, said the agreement is a general one covering trade worth £25 million during the first year.

He revealed that another contract, which was signed early this month in Egypt for the export of 15,000 tons of Egyptian cotton to China was not on a barter basis.

C/- Australian Govt. Trade Commissioner  
Hong Kong.

File No. 640

15th August, 1955.

Memo No. 601

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

EGYPTIAN TRADE DELEGATION TO CHINA

Further to my memorandum No.585 of 8th August  
I am forwarding copies of the following Hsinhua News  
Agency releases which refer to the current visit to  
China by a ten member Egyptian trade delegation :

- ANNEX A      Egyptian Trade Delegation Arrives in China -  
Canton 9 Aug  
B      Egyptian Trade Delegation Arrives - Peking  
10 Aug  
C      Egyptian Trade Delegation Feted - Peking 10 Aug  
D      China, Egypt Sign Cotton Contract - Peking  
10 Aug  
E      Ta Kung Pao Welcomes Egyptian Trade Delegation -  
Peking 11 Aug  
F      China-Egypt Trade Talks Begin - Peking 11 Aug  
G      Egyptian Press Welcomes Cotton Deal - Peking  
12 Aug  
H      Egyptian Guests Visit Cotton Mill - Peking 12 Aug  
I      Egyptian Minister Calls on Culture Minister -  
Peking 12 Aug

F 163/11/11

(W.P.J. Hindmer)  
Third Secretary

**SECRET**

**GUARD**

**E A R M E**

*Wk 47*

F 163 | 11 | 11

10. EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WITH CHINA

Following the Bandung Conference, which led to the establishment of contacts between Egypt and Communist China, a trade agreement has been negotiated providing for the purchase by Communist China of £8,000,000 stg. of Egyptian cotton to be paid for in sterling. A further Egyptian trade delegation led by the Minister for Commerce and Industry is at present visiting China.

Nasser has also accepted an invitation to visit the Soviet Union early next year.

*15*  
RADIO PEKING

1. ~~SEA~~  
2. AF/ME

NEWS IN ENGLISH

7.00 p.m., 19th August, 1955

Note: The tape from which this news has been transcribed will be kept for one week from the date of the broadcast. If you have any question which might be answered by replaying the tape, please phone The External Affairs Liaison Officer - MU.1541, before the week is up.

1. In Peking, the head of the Egyptian Government Trade Delegation called on China's acting Minister of Culture(?) yesterday morning. Earlier in the day, the Egyptian Trade Delegation visited the Peking No. 2 Cotton Mill. The head of the delegation expressed the hope that the mill would soon be using Egyptian cotton to turn out better cloth for the Chinese people.

*F 163/11/1*  
The Chairman of the Egyptian Cotton Committee, a delegation member, showed keen interest in the streamlined production system in operation at this cotton mill. He said he was impressed by the fact that all equipment at the mill was made in China.

Egyptian papers have favourably commented on the cotton contract recently concluded between Egypt and China. One paper notes in a recent editorial that the Egyptian Government is adopting an independent cotton policy ..... The paper said, this implies that Asian countries were becoming more co-operative and more united than ever. It has evidence that all the efforts made by ..... have been unsuccessful. One paper wrote in its editorial - By this field, Egypt has disposed of approximately 17% of her total crop. The disposal of Egyptian cotton is rather difficult, in view of the foreign policy adopted by the United States, which affected all the producing countries. The paper said, by making such deals with China, Egypt shall open a new market for its products in the biggest country in the biggest continent.

2. World wide opinion is condemning the Syngman Rhee Group ..... armistice agreement. One paper points out, the purpose of Syngman Rhee's dirty work is to create tension in Korea, pave the way for military bondage, and cut short the possibility of the peaceful settlement of the Korean question. It must be noted, the paper stated, that in the conditions that were genuinely starting to ease international tension prevailing after the Geneva Conference, the provocative action of Syngman Rhee has been condemned more resolutely than ever before. The Soviet paper points out, that the public of our countries demand that an end be put to the activities of the enemies of easing international tension in Asia, and that all obstacles be removed from the path of peaceful settlement of the Far Eastern issue.

Another paper says - The responsibility for Syngman Rhee's attempt to ~~wre~~ wreck the Neutral Nations' Supervisory Committee rests to no small extent with the United States, for Dallas (?) in his press statement, supported Syngman Rhee's stand.

The Vietnamese paper, "Mongol" offers all interested countries to ensure the safety and operation of the Neutral Nations' Supervisory Commission in Korea. It states - There j

greater urgency now than at any other time for the holding of an international conference to discuss the solution of political questions in Korea. If these questions remain unsettled, it would be impossible to obtain the unification of Korea, nor could peace in Korea and Asia be consolidated.

The British paper "News Chronicle" states that Syngham Rhee's intention to seize territories north of the line and south of the 38th Parallel is dangerous.

Other papers views were also stated.

3. In South Korea, mass members of Syngham Rhee's group are still surrounding the in Pusan, Kingsan and Taegu.

/Neutral

Inspired demonstrations against the United Nations Supervisory Commission also took place in Saole. The United Press reported stated a highly competent set up in Saole as saying that the Americans agreed that the British and Czechoslovak members of the United Nations Supervisory Commission should be ousted from South Korea. Rhee's spokesman reiterated that he meant to oust the ~~United~~ Nations Supervisory Commission from South Korea. The U.S. Commanding General of the Armed Forces in the Far East and of the Eighth Army .....;

3. In Tokio, The Japanese police arrested three Japanese Communist Party Leaders at ~~at~~ a mass meeting celebrating the 5th National Conference of the Japanese Communist Party.

4. In Mongolia, theoretical surveyors have completed their work on one of the of an iron and steel base. The new iron and steel base has been built at Bator under China's First Five Year Plan.

When completed, it will send out large quantities of first class steel and steel products.

5. In Djakarta, an All Indonesia Peoples Congress opened on Wednesday evening.

6. The new Indonesian Cabinet has been sworn into office.

7. Pakistan's new Cabinet was sworn into office on Thursday night.



In reply quote No. S.1/11/0

163/11/11

Box 273  
AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,  
CAIRO.

Memo No. 489

10th August, 1955

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND COMMUNIST CHINA

It will be recalled that so far as Egypt was concerned one of the more important results of the Bandung Conference was the establishment of contact with the Communist Chinese with a view to finding a buyer for mounting stocks of cotton. These first contacts were followed by the visit to China of Sheikh Bakhoury, Minister for Wakfs, and although he was primarily concerned with the position of Moslems in China, it is understood that he also interested himself in matters of commerce.

2. These negotiations have already borne fruit, and it was announced on 8th August that an agreement has been concluded for the purchase by the Chinese People's Republic of a total of 290,000 cantars of Egyptian cotton valued at £Eg. 8,000,000. "El Ghomouria" said it would make China the leading importer, "El Ahram" said it would make her the second importer. The agreement provides for payment in sterling and shipment has apparently already begun.

3. It is clearly hoped that trade will be expanded and an Egyptian trade delegation, led by the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Mohammed Abdul Nosseir, left for China last week.

4. Coinciding with the announcement of this agreement it has been reported that Nassar has accepted an invitation to visit the Soviet Union early next year.

*Mr Kinn Wh 17/8*  
*Copy sent E.D. to*  
*E.D. return*  
*this is the news which formed*  
*the substance of this morning*  
*P.L. Report 17/8*

*H.D. White -*  
*(H.D. WHITE)*  
*First Secretary*

*GR*

C/- Australian Govt. Trade Commissioner  
Hong Kong.

File No. 640

8th August, 1955.

Memo No. 585

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

EGYPTIAN TRADE DELEGATION TO CHINA

Hsinhua News Agency has reported that an Egyptian trade delegation led by Dr. Mohammed Abu Nosseir (Egyptian Minister of Commerce and Industry) left Cairo by air for China on 1st August.

2. The following day, upon his arrival in Bombay, Nosseir is reported to have told pressmen that "Egypt was eager to implement the call of the Bandung Conference for commercial and economic cooperation among Asian and African countries.....(and) that the Egyptian delegation would make all endeavours to find out ways for the expansion of trade between China and Egypt. The delegation's visit to China would help Egypt to have a complete picture of the commercial possibilities in the Far East....."

3. In connexion with the trade delegation's visit your attention is drawn to my memorandum No. 298 of 26th April, 1955 which refers to China's trade relations with Egypt.

→ Africa - M.E.

*[Signature]*  
(W.P.J. Handmer)  
Third Secretary

2m  
16  
6

F 163/11/11

P.I. Report

Africa and Middle East Section.

Egypt.

Following the Bandung Conference, which led to the establishment of contacts between Egypt and Communist China, a trade agreement has been negotiated providing for the purchase by Communist China of £3,000,000 stg. of Egyptian cotton to be paid for in sterling. A further Egyptian trade delegation led by the Minister for Commerce and Industry is currently visiting China.

Nasser's decision to accept an invitation to visit the Soviet Union early next year is a further indication of Egyptian desire to strengthen relations with Communist countries. (Memo 494 J 10/8/53)

F 163/11/11

In reply quote No. S.4/3/3/1

BUREAU OF  
NATIONAL AFFAIRS

6 JUL 1955

163/11/11

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,  
CAIRO.

Memo No. 394.

22nd June, 1955.

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST CHINA.

Sheikh Hassan El-Bakouri, the Minister of Wakfs, who attended the Bandung Conference with the Egyptian Delegation, went on from there, at the invitation of Chou-en-lai, for a six weeks' visit to Communist China.

2. The semi-official weekly paper "El-Tahrir" this week devotes two full pages to an article, illustrated with pictures, concerning Sheikh Bakouri's visit. According to the paper, the Sheikh has been greatly impressed by the very kind treatment meted out to the Moslems of China. He took special note of the fact that 3,000 workers of one motor car factory which he inspected were all Moslems. "This is the best answer to the allegations and lies made by the Imperialists that the minorities in China are treated differently from the rest of the population", the Sheikh is quoted as saying. The paper reports that 15,000 Moslems were present at Friday Prayers, held in the biggest Mosque in Peking, to hear Sheikh Bakouri deliver the Friday sermon.

3. Considerable speculation has been aroused in Cairo as to the significance of Sheikh Bakouri's visit. While Nasser has been careful to sidestep publicly questions concerning recognition of Communist China and her representation in the United Nations, there are straws in the wind such as Bakouri's visit and trade negotiations between Egypt and Communist China (our Memorandum No. 306 of the 4th May refers) which indicate that the question is clearly under consideration by the Regime. In this connection, a recent news item appeared in "Al-Gomhouria", date-lined Hong Kong, stating that "Egypt is considering recognising Mao", but there was no comment made.

*H.D. White*  
(H.D. WHITE)  
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

*Mr. Mc Millan*

*Copy and EA*

*P.J.*

*CR*

-> 163/11/11

EGYPT'S RELATIONS WITH CHINA

Hassan al-Baqouri's Visit to China

Cairo broadcasts contained the following information on the visit to China of Hassan al-Baqouri, the Egyptian Minister of Waqfs.

The Egyptian Premier received a cable from Hassan al-Baqouri, who was then in NW China, conveying to him and the Egyptian people the best wishes of Chinese Moslems on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr. (26.5.55)

Hassan al-Baqouri was reported on 28th May to have left Urumchi for Peking accompanied by the Secretary of the Chinese Moslem Association. It was stated to be "almost certain" that Egypt would establish a trade office in China. (28.5.55)

Hassan al-Baqouri met the Chinese Minister of Trade on 30th May to discuss ways of promoting trade relations between the two countries. (31.5.55)

An agreement for cultural co-operation between Egypt and China was signed on 31st May. Hassan al-Baqouri signed on Egypt's behalf. The same evening Chou En-lai gave a dinner party in his honour at which Dr. Mustafa Kamil of Cairo University was also present. (31.5.55)

Hassan al-Baqouri left Peking for Cairo on 1st June. During his visit he held economic and cultural talks with the Chinese authorities and inspected the conditions of Moslems in China. (1.6.55)

On 2nd June Jordan radio reported that Hassan al-Baqouri had said in Hongkong that Egypt would join hands with People's China in defence of human justice and that the two countries would strive to develop Chinese-Egyptian economic and cultural co-operation. In a farewell message over Peking radio Al-Baqouri had expressed the hope that his visit would lead to mutual understanding and firm co-operation between the two countries.

Mohammed Abu Nusair's Projected Visit to China

On 30th May ANA reported that the Egyptian Government was to send an official mission to People's China "early next month", headed by Dr. Mohammed Abu Nusair, Deputy Minister of Trade, in response to an invitation from the Chinese Government. On 1st June Cairo radio said that Mohammed Abu Nusair was discussing with Egyptian importers matters connected with the import of certain Chinese products, including iron. He was studying these matters "in preparation for the departure of an Egyptian economic mission to People's China".

'Al-Gumhouriya' on Egypt's Friendship with China

Dealing on 31st May with an article by "the American Zionist commentator" George Solkolsky entitled "Chou En-lai and the Arabs", 'Al-Gumhouriya' said that he had expressed extreme annoyance at the good relations between Egypt and China at Bandung and had complained that Israel's position was becoming more difficult as a result of competition between People's China and the Western Powers to satisfy the Arabs. As stated by her bitter adversaries, said the newspaper, revolutionary Egypt had gone to Bandung, won the friendship of People's China and made her the enemy of Israel. Egypt had made the Western Powers compete with People's China for the friendship of the Arabs and forced them to turn their backs on Israel. (Cairo 05.15, 31.5.55)

CAIRO BROADCASTS ON ALGERIA

Cairo radio's "Voice of the Arabs" programme has continued to describe clashes in Algeria as incidents in a war of national liberation waged by the Maghrebi Arabs against France. It has emphasised the successes of the nationalists and the perturbation of the French, frequently suggesting that the number of French reverses must convince the authorities that the campaign will inevitably have the same outcome as the war in Indochina. Reports that Marshal Juin was to be placed in charge of the military operations led to assertions that the imposition of an outworn "imperialist" mentality could never, as events in Indochina had shown, break the spirit of patriotism and the people's will.

At the same time it was emphasised that the nationalist campaign in Algeria was only part of the North African campaign and one which, as a manifestation in the Arab Maghreb of a spirit of independence which informed the whole Arab world, deserved the sympathy and support of Arabs everywhere. 'Al-Qahira' (quoted on 27th May) called on the Arabs to act in support of the Maghrebis and to give effect to the resolution passed at the Asian-African conference in Bandung. The French Government's decision to reinforce the troops in Algeria with forces under NATO command, and M. Faure's justification of this decision, was used by Ahmed Sa'id in a commentary broadcast on 29th May to serve the "Voice of the Arabs" campaign against foreign alliances. He said:

"The French Premier's statement has exposed military alliances. O Nuri al-Said, Menderes, British, Americans and confused Arabs: did you realise why we attacked the Turkish-Iraqi-British Pact which a few days ago was adopted by the Atlantic pact which is now helping France to enslave Algeria? Did you know we were right when we feared for our freedom, our Arabism and our aspirations towards a free and honourable future for the Arab nation?"

Next day Ahmed Shawqi said that by using NATO forces "imperialism" had gone even further than the use of armed gangs to protect its position. His words were addressed primarily to the Western Powers:

"Were millions of dollars spent by America in arming this force so that it might be used for this purpose? Is it among NATO tasks to oppress free people and deprive them of their legitimate rights? Does America, the master of the alliance and its financier, agree to become an instrument of repression and a whip in the hands of imperialism? America has always reiterated that the object of the alliance was to defend liberties and protect the free world. Does the protection of armed imperialist gangs come within the defence of freedoms? The fact is, the persistence of the imperialist countries in following their plans and their exploitation of their international relations greatly embarrasses their friends and presents them as supporters of imperialism.

"We beg the big Powers to save themselves from the evils of their friends, to have enough courage to stop those of their friends who err and in this way preserve their interests in one of the most important strategic regions of the world. We ask the big Powers, if they wish to win the friendship of peoples, to act quickly and align themselves with freedom without hesitation. Hesitation has done enough in Asia, and the Arabs have felt ingratitude enough in Palestine - a disaster which still fills our hearts with bitter hatred for those responsible for it."

On 29th May Cairo broadcast in its home service a talk by Abd el-Aziz Fahmi repeating some of the points used in "Voice of the Arabs" comment: that, by sending troops to Algeria, France showed that it had not learned the lesson of Indochina and that its use of NATO forces ("we do not believe without the knowledge and consent of NATO members") would strengthen Arab rejection of foreign alliances.

1/11/50

Box 273

Australian Legation,  
CAIRO

Memo No. 283

27th April, 1955

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

TRADE WITH COMMUNIST CHINA

It was widely reported in the local press that trade talks between Egypt and Communist China took place at Bandung.

2. According to "Al-Ahram", an official source stated:

"The fact that Egypt has not recognised Communist China so far does not preclude the establishment of economic relations with that country. Egypt recently established such relations with another country which she has not recognised, namely, East Germany. Egypt concluded a trade agreement with East Germany and the exchange of documents took place in Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia, through the Egyptian Legation there since Egypt has no diplomatic representation in East Germany."

3. Egypt is anxious to find buyers for her cotton and the press has reacted favourably to the suggestion that some sort of barter agreement be reached with Communist China. The difficulty of such an agreement was referred to by Major Salah Salem, when he admitted in Bandung on 25th April that talks had taken place between Gamal Abdul Nasser and Chou En-Lai dealing with China's readiness to buy half a million cantars of Egyptian cotton every year, in return for Chinese commodities. "The difficulty," he is reported as saying, "lies in the fact that Egypt needs industrial products more than she needs the raw materials which China is prepared to offer."

4. Major Salem said that talks would continue and that China has proposed the opening of a Bureau in both countries to deal with commercial matters.

5. It was reported on 27th April that a Chinese Trade Mission will visit Egypt shortly with a view to negotiating a Trade Exchange Agreement between Communist China and Egypt.

(Sgd) H. D. WHITE

(H.D. WHITE)  
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

→ African  
→ East Asia to retain  
only on 766/3/15  
→ File on 163/11/11  
Dm  
L 12  
5  
55-

Box 273

1/11/50

Memo No. 306

4th May, 1955.

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

EGYPTIAN-COMMUNIST CHINESE TRADE RELATIONS

I refer to our memorandum No. 283 of 27th April on  
the above subject.

2. Egypt's Deputy Minister for Commerce and Industry was a member of the Egyptian Delegation to the Bandung Conference, and it is likely that his efforts were devoted to finding markets for Egypt's accumulating stocks of cotton and that China was considered one of the most important potential buyers. The press has already announced that a Communist Chinese Trade Mission will visit Egypt in the near future.

3. At a press conference yesterday the Deputy Minister said:

"The Chinese People's Republic occupies an important position in the world of Commerce and Industry and has great consuming potentialities. It was no wonder, therefore, that there should be contacts for the strengthening of commercial co-operation between that country and Egypt. Apart from the fact that Egypt and China were among the countries which participated in the Asian-African Conference and that the Conference has recommended increased economic and commercial co-operation among the nations of these areas, China itself is considered an excellent market for Egyptian cotton and its products. At the same time, China produces many goods which have a good market in Egypt."

*1. M. M. Miller 1/12  
2. Abu Nasseir  
3. F 163/11*

"This co-operation lies only in the economic field and has nothing to do with political questions. Diplomatic recognition of Communist China is one thing and commercial exchange with it is another. This is a common international practice." .....

"There is no doubt that the development of commercial exchange between Egypt and China will be speedy, but it will be effected in stages and not in one stroke." Payment will be through a neutral bank, he said.

"As soon as the organisational phase is completed," Dr. Abu Nasseir said, "positive steps will follow one after the other. Egypt will import the largest possible volume of goods from China in return for the largest possible amount of Egyptian cotton. China can export to us iron, agricultural and industrial machinery, newsprint and rolling stock and all at extremely competitive prices as compared to present prices in world markets."

*→ Open & mark file*

/ It is .....

4. It is noteworthy that in the statement clear distinction was drawn between commercial and diplomatic relations, a distinction which the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs emphasised to me in a recent conversation.

(Sgd) H. D. WHITE

(H. D. WHITE)  
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

66/5/1

Box 273

Memo No. 956

Australian Legation  
CAIRO  
9th September, 1954

Org. on 163/11/71

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE TO RECOGNITION OF COMMUNIST CHINA

I refer to paragraph 3 of my memorandum No. 938 of 1st September, 1954.

2. On 1st September a spokesman of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Egypt's attitude towards the recognition of Communist China remained unchanged. "We still recognise Nationalist China and the statement of Lt.-Col. Gamal Abdul Nassar, the Premier, cannot be taken as an implied recognition of Communist China," the spokesman said.

3. The apparent contradiction in Government policy can only be explained by the Egyptian anxiety to obtain United States economic aid at the present time, and possibly also, their knowledge that Nationalist China will support Egypt in the United Nations whereas Communist China would be unlikely to.

(Sgd) H. D. WHITE

(H.D. WHITE)  
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper.....

Published at.....

File No. 163/11/11

Date. 21 May 1951

## RECOGNITION OF PEKING

### EGYPT'S REPORTED INTENTION

#### TALK WITH U.S. ENVOY

From Our Own Correspondent

CAIRO, MAY 23

Mahmoud Fawzi, the Foreign Minister, yesterday received Mr. Jefferson Caffery, the United States Ambassador, and their conversation is reported to have covered the canal zone question, American policy in the Middle East, and reports published in the official newspaper *Al Gounharia* that the Egyptian authorities are considering recognition of Communist China. The same reports occasioned a visit to Mahmoud Fawzi by the Ambassador of Nationalist China, who afterwards told newspaper representatives that his Government had a well equipped army of 600,000 men ready to go into action on the mainland of China in the course of this year.

It is possible that the Egyptian Government will recognize Communist China if by doing so it can be reasonably sure of widening the market for Egyptian cotton. The reports that the question is now being studied may, however, be related to the fact that the United States is extending military aid to Pakistan and Iraq and withholding it from Egypt—whose application was made before Iraq's—until the canal zone dispute with the United Kingdom is cleared up.

#### A MOVE AFTER GENEVA

The Egyptian Government has been given reason to believe that there may be a British move to reopen negotiations when Mr. Eden is less fully occupied with the Geneva conference, provided that in the interval the security situation in the zone remains reasonably satisfactory. But the Geneva conference may go on for a long time.

A dispatch from Washington published here denies a report that the United States Government will be associated with a new British proposal to Egypt. The report in question, however, depicts American interest in the resumption of negotiations. It is evident to the United States Government that Egypt under the present régime, is an anti-Communist State which wants to build up its defences. This country may be unwilling at present to enter any formal alliance with the western Powers, but she appears prepared to make a canal zone agreement which—if not technically perfect from the viewpoint of the maintenance of the military base—implies cooperation with the western Powers in the defence of the Middle East.

The British Government is said to be well aware that the present negotiating position of the Egyptian Government is an advance on October 21, when the last series of negotiations broke down, in that Egypt is now ready to include Turkey in the circle of countries attack on which would lead automatically to reopening of the base to British troops. In the light of that, it is hoped that the British Government will see their way to make a concession to the Egyptian view that the arrangements under which British technicians live and work in the canal zone after the main forces are withdrawn should have at least a civilian façade. The Egyptian régime feels that the only agreement that will endure is one that visibly ends the "military occupation."

#### PROSPITIOUS TIME

It is thought by some observers here that the time has again become propitious, in Cairo at any rate, for a canal zone agreement. The remodelled Egyptian régime is more homogeneous than its predecessor. The Arab Governments—as noted by Major Saleh Salem in a plaintive speech at the weekend—are tending to give priority to the security of their own countries over Egypt's. The quarrel with Transjordan, the freedom of navigation, however, so long as Egypt feels the need to keep the flame of extreme nationalism burning in the Middle East. Given a settlement of the canal zone question, it is hoped by responsible Arab leaders that the question of Palestine, which Palestine is not the burning domestic question that it is in the Arab States, might be instrumental in influencing Arab League policy towards Israel along more realistic lines. Mr. Selwyn Lloyd's report to the House of

# RECOGNITION OF PEKING

## EGYPT'S REPORTED INTENTION

### TALK WITH U.S. ENVOY

From Our Own Correspondent

CAIRO, MAY 23

Mahmoud Fawzi, the Foreign Minister, yesterday received Mr. Jefferson Caffery, the United States Ambassador, and their conversation is reported to have covered the canal zone question, American policy in the Middle East, and reports published in the official newspaper *Al Gounhouriya* that the Egyptian authorities are considering recognition of Communist China. The same reports occasioned a visit to Mahmoud Fawzi by the Ambassador of Nationalist China, who afterwards told newspaper representatives that his Government had a well equipped army of 600,000 men ready to go into action on the mainland of China in the course of this year.

It is possible that the Egyptian Government will recognize Communist China if by doing so it can be reasonably sure of widening the market for Egyptian cotton. The reports that the question is now being studied may, however, be related to the fact that the United States is extending military aid to Pakistan and Iraq and withholding it from Egypt—whose application was made before Iraq's until the canal zone dispute with the United Kingdom is cleared up.

#### A MOVE AFTER GENEVA

The Egyptian Government has been given reason to believe that there may be a British move to reopen negotiations when Mr. Eden is less fully occupied with the Geneva conference, provided that in the interval the security situation in the zone remains reasonably satisfactory. But the Geneva conference may go on for a long time.

A dispatch from Washington published here describes a report that the United States Government will be associated with a new British proposal to Egypt. The report in question, however, denotes American interest in the resumption of negotiations. It is evident to the United States Government that Egypt under the present régime is an anti-Communist State which wants to build up its defences. This country may be unwilling at present to enter any formal alliance with the western Powers, but she appears prepared to make a canal zone agreement which—if not technically perfect from the viewpoint of the maintenance of the military base—implies cooperation with the western Powers in the defence of the Middle East.

The British Government is said to be well aware that the present negotiating position of the Egyptian Government is an advance on that of October 21, when the last series of negotiations broke down, in that Egypt is now ready to include Turkey in the circle of countries attack on which would lead automatically to reopening of the base to British troops. In the light of that, it is hoped that the British Government will see their way to make a concession to the Egyptian view that the arrangements under which British technicians live and work in the canal zone after the main forces are withdrawn should have at least a civilian façade. The Egyptian régime feels that the only agreement that will endure is one that visibly ends the "military occupation."

#### PROBITIOUS TIME

It is thought by some observers here that the time has again become propitious, in Cairo at any rate, for a canal zone agreement. The remoulded Egyptian régime is more moderate than its predecessor. The Arab Government—as noted by Major Saleh Salem in a plaintive speech at the weekend—are tending to give priority to the security of their own countries over Egypt's particular quarrel with "imperialism." Their freedom of action is cramped, because so long as extreme nationalism burning in the Middle East. Given a settlement of the canal zone question, it is hoped by responsible Arab leaders that the Egyptian Government, for which Palestine is not the sole domestic question that affects the Arab States, might be instrumental in influencing Arab League policy towards Israel along more realistic lines.

Mr. Selwyn Lloyd's report to the House of Commons on the security situation in the canal zone has produced in the Egyptian Press what has now become a familiar theme and what incidents in the canal zone are unavoidable so long as British troops are there. That is true, but there are few serious incidents when the Egyptian Government is fulfilling its duty to maintain law and order. It has made that duty rather more difficult than it was by shooting too many local gangsters to acquire firearms. Fortunately, the frequent shooting incidents in the zone have not, in the past few weeks, resulted in anyone being killed or seriously injured.



DEPARTMENT OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

2 JUN 1954  
163/11/11  
CANBERRA.

In reply quote No. 66/5/1

Memo. No. 650

P.O. Box 273

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,  
CAIRO.

21th May, 1954

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Recognition of Communist China by Egypt

According to the semi-official newspaper "Al Goumhourieh" on 22nd May 1954, the Egyptian Government is at present considering the recognition of Communist China; the final decision is expected to be taken shortly.

"Al Goumhourieh" went on to say that certain diplomatic and economic studies on the subject were being considered. These studies deal with the possible effect of the recognition on economic relations between Egypt and China; they are only a link in a series that has been conducted by the Egyptian Government to widen the scope of commercial and economic co-operation between Egypt and other countries. This policy of closer economic collaboration had been adopted as a reply to the economic warfare waged by the United Kingdom against Egypt.

"Al Goumhourieh" also reported that it has received a message from its Beirut office stating that the Lebanon is also considering the recognition of Communist China.

Subsequent to "Al Goumhourieh's" report, the American Ambassador in Cairo called upon the Egyptian Foreign Minister. The Foreign Minister told the Ambassador that the Egyptian Government did not intend at this time to recognise Communist China. Dr. Fawzy added that the Government felt the recognition would, however, be advantageous to Egypt from the economic standpoint; nevertheless, the Government did not wish to take a decision which the United States would obviously regard as hostile to it.

The Ambassador and the Foreign Minister also discussed the forthcoming visit of Mr. Eric Johnston to the Middle East. Mr. Johnston will arrive in Damascus on 12th June. Dr. Fawzy told Mr. Caffery that the Arab plan for the development of the waters of the Jordan Valley had now been approved by the Technical Committee (see the Legation's memorandum No.476 of 12th April, 1954). He also said that Egypt had done her best to assist the United States in her efforts to have the T.V.A. plan approved by the Arabs but that she had been unable to overcome "childish objections" by some of the other Arab states.

A copy of this memorandum is being forwarded to the Australian Embassy, Washington, and the External Affairs Officer, London.

*baby min ME*  
*alan renouf*  
(Alan Renouf),  
Secretary.

*→ Pacific to re*  
*J. H. A.S.*

*CS*



DEPARTMENT OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
7 SEP 1953  
163/11/11  
C. E. BRA  
P.O. Box 273

In reply quote No. 66/5/1.

Memo. No. 1338/53

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,  
CAIRO.

31st August, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Recognition of Communist China by Egypt

The Amin Brothers who control an important group of Egyptian newspapers headed by "Akbar El Yom" have recently been conducting a campaign in these papers in favour of the immediate recognition by Egypt of Communist China. The recognition of Communist China is advocated mainly on grounds of realism.

To date the Amin Brothers' campaign has not had any official reactions from the Government.

*alan renouf*

(Alan Renouf),  
Secretary.

*copy given D.O.H.  
OEA files/9*

*CS*

*PAT*



DEPARTMENT OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

19 JAN 1953

163/11/11  
CANBERRA

P.O. Box 273

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,  
CAIRO.

In reply quote No. 66/5/1

Memo. No. 39/53

10th January, 1953

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Recognition of Communist China by Egypt

1. The Indian Ambassador to Egypt denied on 9th January, 1953 reports which had appeared in the press alledging that Mrs. Pandit, who recently visited Cairo, had raised the question of recognition of Communist China by the Egyptian Government.

2. The United States Ambassador has obtained confirmation of this denial from the Egyptian Foreign Minister. When questioned upon the subject, the Foreign Minister told the Ambassador that Mrs. Pandit had not even mentioned the matter and that the Egyptian Government had no intention at the present time of recognising Communist China.

3. A copy of this memorandum is being forwarded to the Office of the Australian High Commission in New Delhi.

*alan renouf*  
(Alan Renouf),  
Secretary.

copy on 163/7/1.

1 *Ranjan* - done *AC* *22/1/53*  
2 *Mr. M. J. F. Smith* - *K*  
3 *General Secretary*



DEPARTMENT OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

12 JAN 1953

163/11/11  
CANBERRA.

In reply quote No. 65/11/1

Memo. No. 11/53

P.O.B. 273  
AUSTRALIAN LEGATION  
CAIRO.

6th January, 1953.

MEMORANDUM FOR:-

The Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs,  
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Cotton Transaction with Communist China

The Egyptian Minister of Finance announced on 1st January, 1953 that Egypt had concluded an important cotton transaction with Communist China. The Minister refused to give any details.

Draft Secretary  
Mr. P. Renouf  
to see PB  
163/11/11  
Alan Renouf  
(Alan Renouf),  
Secretary.

CB on 163/11/53 go

1 ER go to see  
2 Pacific - see over  
3 Berlin - file of

163/11/53

C S